FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GATHERINGS MARK ANNIVERSARY OF FALKLANDS LANDING

PY031728 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Apr 85 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) -- Masses, marches, rallies and other commemorative ceremonies in tribute to the Malvinas war dead -- marking the 3rd anniversary (April 2, 1982) of Argentina's landing beginning its 74-day recuperation of the islands -- were held throughout the country yesterday. The central ceremony, attended by President Raul Alfonsin, most of his cabinet and the three Armed Forces commanders-in-chief, was held in the Stella Maris Armed Forces chapel. Armed Forces chaplain Monsignor Miguel Angel Medina, who celebrated the mass, urged against the "de-Malvinization" of the national conscience concerning sovereignty over the islands and said both a "black book and a white book were written about our war in the South Atlantic, neither of which reflects reality." The black book said "everything was more than miserable, soldiers gave up without a fight, no officers died, provisions were inefficient" and the white book maintains "everything was crowned with success, fighting capacity was put to the test, there were volunteers, courage and heroism, soldiers laid down their lives for their country." But "history is made of shady greys," Medina said, adding we should "thank God for everything that happened," our success and shortcomings, and ask for "his help to overcome the war's profound aftermath" we are still suffering.

Army Commander-in-Chief General Hector Rios Erenu, in a message sent to all units across the country, said those who gave their lives in the South Atlantic war "have not died in vain, for their self-sacrifice proves to the world the justice of our cause and marks an important milestone which will be remembered in the annals of our history."

In a similar message, Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Ramon Arosa said the sorrow produced by the "bitterness of defeat" in the Malvinas "should not paralyze us, but rather spur us on never to abandon our legitimate rights over the islands. "This April 2 the flame of hope is still burning, fed by the example of those who nourished with their blood our (southern) land and seas and by the manly pride of those who showed their skill and daring," Arosa said.

For his part, Air Force Commander-in-Chief Brigadier Ernesto Crespo paid tribute to the glorious landing, rendered homage to those who died and called on the Armed Forces to rally round the "stability the country needs to tread the course of greatness which history calls the nation to."

Some 200 ex-soldiers led the Obelisk-to-Plaza de Mayo march organized by the Coordinating Committee of Malvinas War Veterans' Centres last night, chanting slogans against the government and the Armed Forces. Followed by marching columns of the Movement of Political Youth (Mojupo), which grew to over 5,000 by the time they positioned themselves in front of Government House, veterans' spokesmen lashed out against the government for "forgetting the Malvinas," and condemned the military leaders who they accused of "war, abuse and murder." "We shall return to the Malvinas," rally organizers announced, "after we have recovered the Argentine mainland," amidst shouts against the "oligarchical prostitutes who have sided with the (financial) enemy." The march was slightly marred by separate verbal and bottle-throwing incidents between Peronist and Communist youth at one intersection and Movement Towards Socialism and Revolutionary Communist youth at another. British and U.S. flags were also burned.

At about the same time some 1,500 people gathered in San Martin Plaza in a ceremony organized by the Armed Forces Officers' Club. Former presidents Generals Juan Carlos Ongania and Marcelo Levingston were among those present as well as Commodores Pedro Ricardini and Jose Rodeiro in representation of the Armed Forces Chief of Staff. Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Commander Ricardo Pianta sent a letter of support.

GOVERNMENT WANTS ELECTIONS HELD AS SCHEDULED

PY032024 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Excepts] Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has stated that the government believes that the (?full) ticket of municipal officials must be included on the ballots for the 14 July elections, as established in the appropriate declaration.

[Begin recording -- broadcast in progress] ...That (?exemption) has been ordered following the instructions issued by the Supreme Court of Justice, bearing in mind that the paperwork subject to the approval of the legislative and judicial branches continues being unnecessarily delayed... [announcer overlaps Alvarez Plata recording in progress] [end recording]

Thus, the government believes that the elections scheduled for 14 July should be held to elect a president, a vice president, senators, deputies, and (?municipal authorities).

AMBASSADOR GUZMAN REJECTS U.S. SENATOR'S STATEMENTS

FL030130 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1955 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Bolivian Ambassador to Venezuela Mario V. Guzman Galarza has said that Bolivia is a poor country but will defend its sovereignty and independence above all else and will not allow anyone to attempt to impose her caprices on us. The diplomat made this statement when commenting on the accusations made against Bolivia by Republican Senator Paula Hawkins; he added that Hawkins would do better to aid her own country and government to put her nation in order.

Guzman Galarza said that on 28 March the senator arrogantly proposed that no U.S. aid be granted to Bolivia and that existing aid be suspended. He said she also said the Bolivian authorities are criminals. With the insolence appropriate to bullies and their ignorance, he said, the legislator accused Bolivia of having inundated the U.S. market with 200 metric tons or cocaine and of wanting Bolivia to burn out the coca plantation with herbicides used by the United States in Vietnam.

At the Bolivian Embassy in Mexico City, Guzman Galarza said his country is in agreement with reducing the extension of the coca plantations and carrying out a policy of gradual crop substitution. But Bolivia will not permit the land to be destroyed because it is the source of the people's livelihood.

Visibly irritated, he added that Hawkins should worry more about burning out the marijuana fields in the United States with chemical products inasmuch as the United States, according to reports by U.S. journalists, has become the center of operations for the criminal bands that distribute all kinds of drugs. He also said that nothing is being done to control the mafia that is poisoning U.S. youth with impunity, and the drug addicts that swarm in the social, financial, and artistic circles of the United States are invulnerable. He emphasized that it is very easy to attack poor, weak countries of the Third World such as Bolivia and other Latin American countries when a power such as the United States shows that it lacks the ability to destroy the monsters that propagate vice in U.S. cities. He said Bolivia rejects and repudiates legislator Hawkins' foolish accusations and calls upon the United States Congress not to support the verbal terrorism of a person who does not represent the feelings of the entire U.S. people.

ANTI-DRUG POLICE, DEA STAGE LARGEST OPERATION

PY032217 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The anti-drug police today staged the largest operation on record aimed at indicting hundreds of drug traffickers who were denounced by two drug traffickers arrested in the early morning hours of 2 April. The gigantic operation was immediately staged by agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration who are working jointly with Bolivian personnel. Twelve drug traffickers were arrested yesterday while they were transporting 1,171 kg of cocaine from Cochabamba to Beni Department.

According to initial press reports, this operation has made it possible to discover that the drug trafficking ring is directly linked with the notorious drug trafficking boss Roberto Suarez, whose whereabouts are still unknown.

STATE ORDERED TO INTERVENE IN MINING OPEERATIONS

PY031545 Paris AFP in Spanish 1353 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] La Paz, 3 Apr (AFP) -- The government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo today ordered in La Paz that the mining enterprises Orlandinia and Southern Mining Company (Comsur), which specialize in tin and gold production, respectively, be intervened by the state.

The intervention of Comsur has taken place following the signing of an agreement between the Ministry of Mines and the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers (FSTMB) and will last until a technical study on the duration of the contract authorizing the exploitation of gold areas in nothern La Paz Department is conducted.

After the completion of 25 years of the effectiveness of the contract, Comsur has asked for an extension of nearly 3 years as compensation for nonworking days, owing to strikes, stoppages, and other imponderables. The workers, on the contrary, are demanding that the areas immediately revert to the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (Comibol).

Comsur's main stockholders are the Sanchez de Lozada brothers, who are high-ranking leaders of the Historic Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNRH), which is currently led by three-time former President Victor Paz Estenssoro. Antonio Sanchez de Lozada is currently the comptroller general of the Republic (appointed by the Senate of the nation) and his brother Gonzalo is a national deputy.

The Orlandini enterprise, one of the largest enterprises in the country -- as is also the case with Comsur -- has been intervened by the Labor Ministry owing to frequent worker-employer conflicts. Over the past few days, the workers have occupied the Totoral deposits, which contain tin concentrate worth $500,000 [as received], Orlandini spokesmen have reported.

GROUPS ON PERUVIAN BORDER DESTROY LANDMARKERS

PY040105 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 85

[Excerpts] (Juan Morray), president of the civic committee of Camacho Province, La Paz Department has reported that an armed group of approximately eight civilians penetrated Bolivian territory from Peru, destroying markers 20, 21, 22, and 26.

The president of the Camacho Province civic committee expressed his concern over the repeated intrusions of armed individuals into the border areas since they could be irregular groups. Therefore, he has come to La Paz City to request that the authorities order the deployment of uniformed guards to the region, as well as a vehicle, in order to be able to gua_d the border area.

MNR CONVENTION ELECTS NEW PARTY LEADERSHIP

PY021530 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] The 14th Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR], convention has elected its new party leadership. The new leaders will report to Victor Paz Estenssoro, the national party leader.

The following were elected members of the National Executive Committee: national leader, Victor Paz Estenssoro; first deputy national leader, Nulfo Chavez Ortiz; second deputy labor leader, (Jose Luis Hart); third deputy peasant leader, Jorge Brun; executive secretary, Javier Campero Paz; secretary general, Emilio Lopez; secretary of organization for the western region, Gonzalo Cimbron; secretary of organization for the eastern region, (Hugo Velazco); secretary of organization for the southern region, Samuel Gallardo.

The national convention has decided that the National Political Committee members will be designated by the national party leader. All party organizations should be represented in the Political Committee.

REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENT NEVES'CONDITION

New Bacteria Found

PY040408 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0258 GMT 4 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Tomorrow's newspapers will note that today an atmosphere of tranquillity returned to the Heart Institute here in Sao Paulo, where President Tancredo Neves is recovering from his fourth operation.

According to the information released on the president's 20th day in the hospital, the infection that has been worrying the medical team is showing signs of receding. This is proven by the fact that the president has no fever and is in good spirits.

This morning, President Neves requested the doctors' permission to get out of bed and to do a bit of walking around the room, but he was advised not to do so.

This morning, during an informal chat, presidential spokesman Antonio Brito denied rumors that Tancredo Neves would be flown to the United States.

The most important news obtained from the Heart Institute today, after the only medical report was issued, referred to the presence of another type of bacteria in the president's body.

Now the Bandeirantes team once again reports directly from the Heart Institute, where journalist Pedro Luis Ronco reports on the current situation.

[Begin report] Good evening (Boedo), Carlos Gatti. It is now 2356 here at the Heart Institute and the most import news of the night was the discovery by Dr Vicente Amato of the medical team of a bacteria in President Tancredo Neves' herniated sac. This bacteria belongs to the gram-negative bacillum family, the entero bacter (cloake). This germ is sensitive to the antibiotics being administered to the president. In the meantime, it should be noted that the material collected during the hernia operation continues to be cultivated and it is quite likely that a different bacteria will be found.

According to the presidential adviser, the doctors have made it clear that despite the great quantity of antibiotics being administered, they are being given in the proper doses to avoid any side effects.

At around 1700, President Tancredo Neves ate orally. He had juice, yogurt, honey, gelatin, and tea.

Antonio Brito denied that the possibility of transferring Neves to another hospital in Brazil or even abroad, as was stated in rumors circulating all day long and which stated that President Tancredo Neves would be taken to Houston in the United States, was ever discussed.

Several professionals in the medical field have asserted that there is no place in the world capable of identifying the specific bacteria which Vicente Amato's team is not capable of identifying. These sources added that these bacteria, in any country of the world, take from 3 to 7 days to identify.

President Tancredo Neves has not had a fever for the past 29 hours.

Condition Reportedly 'Worsening'

PY041258 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1230 GMT 4 Apr 85

[Report from Brasilia by Carlos Rodrigues]

[Text] There is a great anxiety here in Brasilia again in view of reports from Sao Paulo that President Neves' condition might be worsening. It seems that the president ran a fever again early this morning. That is the information we have here in Brasilia.

Therefore, there is great anxiety and even tension. As is known, today is a holiday and Acting President Sarney is staying at his residence in Jaburu Palace.

Newsmen, who have been working around the clock in recent weeks, are already on alert at Jaburu Palace. Sarney is being constantly briefed on the condition of the President Tancredo Neves. Despite the holiday, many congressmen are staying in Brasilia. This is, therefore, a view of the situation prevailing here in the capital at this moment when the entire nation is again experiencing great anxiety.

SARNEY TO MAKE GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

PY031638 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1605 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] Acting President Jose Sarney will take full control of the reins of the new Republic in order to avoid speculation. In keeping with this decision, he will appoint second- and third-level officials.

The following is a live report from Brasilia by reporter Carlos Rodrigues:

[Begin report] Presidential press adviser Fernando Cesar Mesquita is now announcing here at Planalto Palace that effective immediately Acting President Jose Sarney will fully exercise his presidential powers and will make every decision necessary to lead the government. Next week Sarney intends to appoint all second-level government officials, and, by the end of next week, he could also appoint the new governor of the Brasilia Federal District, an appointment which is pending a decision by President Tancredo Neves. Sarney is carrying out his activities normally here at Planalto Palace and has been receiving updated information from Sao Paulo on Neves' health. Sarney will spend the Holy Week holiday in his residence at Jaburu Palace here in Brasilia. [end report]

CHAMBER PRESIDENT SAYS CONGRESS WORKING NORMALLY

PY040155 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies President Ulysses Guimaraes, who today reported on congressional activities in Brasilia, said that, essentially, the country is working normal

[Begin recording] Congress is holding its normal sessions. It is voting on proposals as usual, the presidents of several commissions have been chosen so that their commissions can start working [words indistinct] and the Intraparty commission I had suggested be formed is already working. In other words, work is being carried out with (?responsibility).

However, it is logical that when a serious event comes up, like the operation on the president yesterday, that event will attract all attention. This is natural thing, and (?we) are all hopeful that the president will be able to overcome his problem. [end recording]

Guimaraes said he spoke with Dr Henrique Pinotti, who headed the medical team that operated on the president, and said he received a good report on the president's condition.

ITAMARATY STUDYING BORDER PROTEST FROM URUGUAY

PY030401 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Mar 85 p 6

[Text] Itamaraty has announced that the government yesterday began to analyze a protest note from the Uruguayan Government complaining about the construction of a housing development in an area of Santana do Livramento, according to the Montevideo government, lies in Brazilian territory owing to an error in the border treaty signed between Brazil and Uruguay in 1951.

The Uruguayan note was delivered on Thursday, 28 March, to the Brazilian ambassador in Montevideo, Eduardo Moreira Hosanah. In the protest note, Uruguay informed the Brazilian Government that the housing development dedicated on 12 March by the mayor of Santana do Livramento, Rio Grande do Sul, lies in a 22,000-hectare area situated in the vertex of the triangle formed by the Uruguayan Departments of Artigas, Salto, and Rivera. According to Itamaraty spokesman Renato do Prado Guimaraes, the Uruguayan note is being examined by the Department of the Americas and the Border Division of Brazilian Foreign Ministry. Diplomatic observers believe that the Uruguayan protest is an attempt to reopen the border question between Brazil and Uruguay, based on the fact that the Vila Alvernoz housing development, which will ultimately contain 80 residential units, is located 15 km from the borderline established in the 1951 border treaty between Brazil and Uruguay.

NEW MILITARY HIGH COMMAND OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED

PY030402 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Mar 85 p 13

[Text] Brasilia — The promotion lists for the Army and the Air Force were issued yesterday. The new Army generals who will form the Army high command are Haroldo Erichsen da Fonseca, Ivan Dentice Linhares, and Edison Boscacci Guedes. The new Air Force generals are Paulo Roberto Coutinho Camarinha, Walter Pinto da Fonseca, and Fernando de Assis Monteiro. These promotions have ended the transfers caused by the change of government in these two ministries.

The new major general are: Alberto dos Santos Lima Fajardo, Jose Pinto dos Reis, Ramiro Monteiro de Castro, Carlos Tinoco Ribeiro Gomes, Iris Lustosa de Oliveira, and Juracy Novaes Pontes (for engineering). The only post open for an Air Force major general, equivalent to the three stars of an Army major general, was assigned to Sergio Luiz Borges.

Those promoted to brigadier generals are Colonels Jair Rubens Longhi, Antonio Carlos Bittencourt de Andrade, Delio de Assis Monteiro, Dirceu Ribas Correa, Romulo Nunes Camargo, Abdias da Costa Ramos, Daniel Lomando Andrade, Mauro Koch Pastori, Jose Carlos Leite Filho, Paulo Cardoso Almeida, Mario Sergio Rodrigues de Mattos, Flamarion Carvalho de Oliveira, Ermar Rocha de Cunto, Jose Luiz de Castro Silva, Iran Carvalho, Nelson da Silva Amaral, Caio Marcio Neder, and Henrique Araujo. Former Aviation Colonel Sergio Luiz Milton was promoted to brigadier general.

The Army high command is made up of the following four star generals: Jorge Sa Freire Pinho as chief of staff; Heraldo Tavares Alves as commander of the 1st Army; Sebastiao Ramos de Castro as commander of the 2d Army; Paulo Campos Paiva as commander of the 3d Army; Cerqueira Lima as commander of the 4th Army; Octavio Medeiros as military commander of the Amazon; Ivan de Souza Mendes as chief minister of the National Intelligence Service.

The new department chiefs of the high command are: Generals Jose Albuquerque as chief of the War Materiel Department; Ivan Dentice Linares as chief of the General Services Department; Adhemar da Costa Machado as chief of the Teaching and Research Department; Mario Brum Negreiros as chief of the Engineering and Communications Department; and Edison Boscacci Guedes as chief of the Personnel Department.

The new high command chiefs of the Technology Secretariat and of the Financing Secretariat are Generals Hartldo Erichsen da Fonseca and Mario O'Reilly, respectively.

The Air Force high command is now formed by Generals Alfredo Berenguer as chief of staff; Paulo Roberto Camarinha as general air commander; Fernando de Assis Martins Costa as general support commander; George Belham ea Motta as general personnel commander; Luiz Felipe Carreiro as chief of the Teaching Department; Jorge Jose de Carvalho as chief of Research and Development Department; Waldier Pinto da Fonseca as chief of the Civilian Aviation Department; and Joao Alberto Correia Neves as president of the Commission for Research Related to International Air Navigation.

Acting President Jose Sarney yesterday approved the promotions to Navy admirals. The new admirals are former Vice Admirals Bernard David Blower, who is the current squadron general commander, and Valter Faria Maciel, who is the commander of the First Naval District. Navy School Commander Ivan da Silveira Serpa and Submarine Forces Commander Joao Geraldo Nmata de Araujo were promoted to Vice Admirals. Captains Jose Miranda Dias, Domingo Alfredo Silva, Roberto de Oliveira Coimbra, and Carlos Bastos de Oliveira were promoted to rear admiral.

Rear Admiral Paulo Almeida Barbosa and Captain Cesar Cardoso were promoted to vice admiral and rear admiral, respectively, of the Naval Engineering and Technical Corps.

Within the Quartermaster Corps, Rear Admiral Geralso Souza de Oliveira was promoted to vice admiral, while Captain Ney Salvador Dias was promoted to rear admiral.

Within the Marines and Health Corps, there were two promotions to rear admirals: those of Captains Haroldo Rodrigues and Davino Pontual, respectively.

TEACHERS UNION HOLDS DAY OF MOURNING 2 APRIL

PY031500 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Excerpts] According to estimates made by the Chilean Teachers Union Association [AGECH], 80 percent of the teachers supported the day of mourning called by the AGECH. The day of mourning was held today to protest the murder of Professor Manuel Guerrero, head of the Santiago AGECH branch.

This afternoon the AGECH Executive Council released a statement [words indistinct] murderers may be foreigners. The document read by Samuel Bello says:

[Begin recording] The comments made by some government spokesmen about the responsibility for the murder of Manuel Guerrero Ceballos, Jose Manuel Parada, and Santiago Natino is emphatically rejected. The idea of blaming foreigners for this crime seems to us childish and not very responsible. No one will believe that individuals who have facilities for detention, use large quantities of weapons, mobilize themselves in dozens of vehicles in broad daylight, circulate during the curfew hours, kidnap and shoot at people on the streets, raid buidlings, and speak perfect Spanish using Chilean slang could possibly be foreigners.

The evaluation of the day of mourning by the teachers has demonstrated the love people feel for Chilean teachers and the great repudiation of the recent events. [end recording]

The AGECH also pointed out that this organization will ask the courts for special protection for four of its members who were kidnapped and later released last week. They, along with Leopoldo Munoz of the Latin American School of Integration, are key witnesses in the investigation of the murders.

Under Secretary of Education Rene Salame said that school activities in the government and in municipal schools were normal.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER ON NATIONAL STOPPAGE

PY031559 Paris AFP in Spanish 2305 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 2 Apr (AFP) -- Gabriel Valdez, the leader of the Christian Democratic opposition, today stated in Santiago that the general stoppage being advocated in Chile by the outlawed left-wing forces is a feasible alternative and a legitimate way of exercising civil disobedience.

The possibility of holding a nationwide stoppage has gained momentum among the most radical opposition sectors after an unidentified commando kidnapped three members of the Communist Party, whose bodies were found on the outskirts of Santiago with their throats slit. A few hours before the bodies were found on 30 March, three members of the clandestine organization, Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), were shot to death by law enforcement officials.

Faced with death, we are ready to resort to radical civil disobedience measures, Valdez stated, while warning during a press conference that a stoppage may take place. Nevertheless, Valdez, whose party, along with other moderate groups is a member of the Democratic Alliance [AD], has stated that the state of siege, the press censorhsip, and other restrictions imposed by the government of General Augusto Pinochet make it difficult to implement the stoppage, which is being endorsed by the leftist People's Democratic Movement (CDP).

However, Valdez admitted that the AD, which is made up or republicans and rightist liberals, Christian Democrats, radicals, Social Democrats, and a socialist sector, is considering support for a day of protest and defense of life called by the National Workers Command (CNT), which is led by union leader Rodolfo Seguel.

The protest demonstrations will take place on 11 April to demand the clarification of the kidnapping and killing of Professor Manuel Guerrero, sociologist Jose Manuel Parada, and draftsman Santiago Nattino.

A government communique has repudiated the crimes and has rejected the opposition reports claiming that the kidnappers were members of the security services. Feelings should not lead us to sterile misunderstandings, the official communique stated, voicing the wish of the authorities to cooperate with the courts in the investigation of the killings.

SPECIAL JUDGE BEGINS INVESTIGATING MURDERS

PY031505 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Special Judge Jose Canovas Robles today appeared at the 6th criminal court where he started proceedings aimed at clarifying the kidnapping and murder of Professor Manuel Guerrero, sociologist Jose Manuel Parada, and draftsman Santiago Natino Allende. The judge interrogated some witnesses, held a meeting with police authorities, and talked to the media about the great responsibility which this case represents to him.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON OCCUPATION OF CONSULATE

PY031016 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] Marcelo Padilla, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, has said that opponents of the government were responsible for the thwarted attempt to take over the Chilean Consulate in Barcelona, Spain. The approximately 30 agitators were disloged by the police without incident. This is the third peaceful occupation of the Chilean Consulate in Barcelona in the past 3 years.

Moreover, Foreign Ministry sources stated that some Chilean representations abroad have received anonymous bomb threats.

REACTION TO ARGENTINE STATEMENT ON SUPPORT OF UK

PY031258 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Report from the Foreign Ministry by Francisco Manteira]

[Text] This afternoon Foreign Ministry sources termed the alleged statements by former Argentine government junta member Jorge Anaya regarding possible Chilean support for the British fleet during the Malvinas war as a campaign aimed at undermining Argentine-Chilean relations.

A press report, datelined Buenos Aires, today states that the former members of the government junta and former commander in chief of the Argentine Navy, Jorge Anaya, declared that the Argentine struggle during the Malvinas war affected by Chilean and U.S. support for Great Britain. The report adds that Anaya only now is willing to reveal information regarding the orders given to the Chilean fleet. Among these orders was one to prepare to aid Great Britain, thus tilting the regional power balance. Anaya added that the Chilean fleet had received orders to openly or secretly support Great Britain.

Regarding this press report from Argentina, a Chilean Foreign Ministry source stated: In view of the press reports regarding alleged statements made by a former high-ranking Argentine official, all that can be said is that if they are really true they are part of the campaign which circles [words indistinct] aimed at undermining relations between the two countries at the very moment when the peace and friendship treaty is being considered.

BETANCUR DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICIES

PA021710 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0139 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Address by President Belisario Betancur to the nation, date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Countrymen, by the time these words reach your homes, I will be traveling in Venezuela and Central America, on my way to the United States, making some stops in order to discuss peace with those presidents.

On the various occasions I have addressed you to review the country's problems. I have mentioned the subject of peace, which is the obligatory starting point for any development and civic plan. Why? Because without peace, progress is impossible and without a stable social pact, society falls apart; it gets lost in a war where everyone is against everyone else.

We are familiar with the chaotic and heartbreaking situation into which our own society fell into a century ago. We know of the level of anarchy and violence in which the various factions struggled, and about the delirious theories that fanned the flames of that fire.

Peace was gradually established, little by little our country advanced, and both its institutions and its situation became more complex. More diverse opinions and beliefs also entered our spiritual and ideological environment. The world, so far away, so distant, suddenly entered our realm and its foreign presence spread throughout our country, which until then had been pastoral.

The path to peace periodically encounters difficulties. At this point it is again experiencing one of those bad moments. We almost had such a moment approximately 30 months ago when the amnesty law was approved. Peace however, is here. Peace is here, as a hope, as a concept, being increasingly demanded as a need, without it being an illusion, because it can be a tangible reality. In fact, peace is a basic civic right, and it is the leader's obligation to seek that peace, and to respect it. What for? For the good of the community. Peace, however, is not achieved by raising clenched fists and brandishing weapons. Peace is serenity. Peace is achieved through good sense; it is obtained through goodwill; it is attained firmly; it is achieved through modesty and discreet behavior. This how it has always been.

I must admit that the public order situation is serious due to the bold, overt, or sneaky actions of common criminals who are hiding behind the peace agreements reached with the armed groups. (?They can be sidestepped). It was in order to fight this phenomenon by isolating it and dedicating more resources against it, that we signed the truce, so that once the subversion's excuse was eliminated we could all dedicate ourselves to protecting citizens, and [words indistinct] step by step we are doing it. We have been providing the security and police forces with more and better materiel. We have just increased the police force by 6,000 members, especially by recruiting new carabineros. We shall continue along this path, as I stressed yesterday in a meeting with governors, intendants, police superintendents, brigade commanders, and police and security force directors.

The government cannot amuse itself with illusions, but neither can it use realism to shock the people, or surrender in the face of such practices. The truth is that the armed confrontations between the public forces and the armed groups are no longer an everyday occurrence. Since this activity has practically disappeared, now the violence of common criminals against honest and upstanding citizens has gained force. Now we attribute current developments to the truce agreements, but that should not be the case, because it would be absurd for those who claim to be the citizens' spokesmen and defenders to try and win them over by intimidation and abuse.

As we have heard, those who signed the peace agreements say that they are not involved in these activities. (?If we very rigorously) [3-second break in transmission] take action against those caught committing crimes without heeding the claims that they are harassed guerrillas... [rephrases] and we hope that, in defense of their own image, the movements involved in the peace agreements will help the authorities deal with criminals so that both sides can act loyally, clearly, and efficiently. We shall not commit excesses. We shall not commit them, but neither shall we tolerate them. We shall not tolerate any excesses. We will continue bolstering the truce to achieve peace, a peace that is not merely military or political.

Countrymen, something very important must be stressed: In this conflict, on the government's side our devoted Armed Forces and magnificent police forces have been paying with personal sacrifices and with their blood. This is unfair. Let us not forget that subversion does not come without cost. Let us remember how violence began many years ago. It grew more complicated and serious, but it is not an exclusively military problem about which one can say: If neither military men nor subversives fire a shot, everything will be fine and we will live happily. No. We are an intelligent people, and therefore we will not be satisfied with such a superficial view. First we must begin [word indistinct] fixing the many things that are wrong and that might destroy us if we do not give them the necessary attention. This is what we are presently doing. If we move away from this path, we will be lost. But (?I know this will not happen). It will not happen because we will achieve social peace and because we will always remember that justice is the name of peace. Justice is the name of peace.

The government is aware of citizens concerns and is itself concerned about their personal security and is acting accordingly. It knows of their anguishes and understands them. In Valle del Cauca, Cordoba, Huila, and Cauca, we are rectifying the situation. That is why I met with the brigade, police, and security forces commanders and the governors yesterday. However, I want to ask all citizens to cooperate with us, especially since they know we (?will neither yield) in the face of crime, nor view peace as something achieved by chance or by making totally unacceptable concessions. No, not at all. We shall intensify the struggle against crime with our eyes alert to locate and annihilate it wherever it might appear. However, in order to do this we need the cooperation of all citizens.

I hope that the truce signed with many of those who were up in arms will serve to achieve one of our goals. Which goal? That of advancing in the defense of the people against common criminals. I trust that we will receive help in capturing, trying, and punishing them. To this end, I repeat to the point of exhaustion: We need the support of all citizens. As the great patriot Dr Abelardo Forero Benavides said, we must organize a great national survival movement to which we are all committed because peace is for everyone.

We have also implemented a rehabilitation plan called the Social Plan for Peace. This plan includes health programs, financial aid, production and marketing projects, community organizations, education and cultural activities, roads, and rural electrification and telephone projects. The military and police forces have a role in all of these projects. Residents of the middle Magdalena area, for instance, know this, as do residents of Caqueta and Arauca. This is what we are all demanding, including those up in arms: the creation of an appropriate framework for peace. We will dedicate our greatest effort toward this, as we obtain the necessary economic resources (?for) the essential things, to bolster the goodwill of our Armed Forces and citizens in general.

To coordinate the peace plan on a national level, we have chosen the Presidency's Popular Integration Secretariat, in order not to increase the bureaucracy. This secretariat has excellent experience with community social development programs, and has achieved acknowledged succeses in implementing and coordinating social participation in a number of projects, such as during the Magdalena River floods. Along with the high-level Peace Commission members, this Secretariat will establish ties among the ministries, the governors' and mayors' offices, the Presidency of the Republic, and the public and private sectors to achieve an effective fulfillment and coordination of purposes. We will create broad national awareness concerning the goals of this Social Plan for Peace.

I would like to talk to you now about my trip to Venezuela, Central America, and the United States. Some ask why make such a quick and complicated tour, and especially question what would be the advantages that our country could gain from my trip. I will explain. I still feel that there can be only one peace, a peace that is indivisible, especially considering that we have land and sea borders with the Central American countries. You all know that through our San Andres and Providencia Archipelago we border Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and because of those borders the Central American conflict reaches us. Therefore, to achieve peace in Central America we also must guarantee peace in our own country.

During the next 2 days, Saturday and Sunday, I am planning to meet with all of the Central American and Contadora Group presidents. These will be brief working meetings without any protocol ceremonies because we want to exchange ideas and form opinions at a time when we have been able to overcome the obstacles that prevented the Contadora meetings. We have great hopes that the talks will be a success, and we have the support of the international community. The entire world supports the Contadora process: the pope, the United Nations, the EEC, and international organizations. We know that this fact and the Contadora Group's worldwide prestige serve the cause of peace in our region and our fatherland.

I will also be traveling to the United States. When President Reagan invited me, he asked me to choose between a protocol state visit and a working visit. I immediately chose the working visit because I want to discuss issues that are important for our country and our continent. Of course, we will discuss peace in Central America, the Contadora process, and the support we need from countries with interests in Central America and the Caribbean, including, of course, the United States. I will also discuss the drug trafficking issue with the U.S. authorities. This is an issue which we are and will continue to struggle with, facing any risk and overcoming any threat. Of course we will need the commitment of the countries receiving the drugs in this struggle, along with their promise to fight the drug trafficking problem with the same vigor we will show. We can make all of the sacrifices and efforts, but as long as there is a large market, it will be impossible to totally eradicate production. This large market exists in the United States and everyone knows this.

I will also meet with World Bank, IDB, IMF, and private bank officials. I will discuss the Latin American debt, but the discussion will focus on the financing Colombia needs for its development. You know that our country has autonomously and voluntarily decided to face the national debt problem as well as the foreign debt issue. We have been doing this for many months with the cooperation of the National Congress. What kind of support will I seek? The IDB and the World Bank have found our program very interesting, and have already offered to grant us new loans surpassing $700 million. The IMF has found our strategy adequate, and seems willing to carry out a quarterly examination of our economic efforts.

Based upon periodic examinations, the international private banking system would maintain out lines of credit and lend us approximately $500 million to finance projects involving petroleum and coal exports. This, very briefly, is the plan I would like to consolidate during my visit to Washington.

In the United States I will also discuss trade. We are exporting less than we are capable of to the large U.S. market because there are many hindrances, instituted under the pretext of impeding drug trafficking, especially regarding flour and banana exports. Our textile export quotas are limited, and market access by our firms is hindered. Aerovias Nacionales de Colombia, S.A. [Avianca -- Colombian National Airlines] and the Gran Colombia merchant fleet are harassed. Recently, the United States overdid it in their treatment of our Coffee Bank. As you can see, I have more than enough to discuss during my 3 days in the United States. I will also speak before the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, at the OAS, to an important group of industrialists and bankers, and at Georgetown University. So that the visit will not be entirely work, I will attend two Colombian art exhibits.

We cannot allow small groups that have misunderstood the meaning of peace, despite our efforts, to obstruct the people's peace. No civilian, military, or police authority can be excused from fulfilling the duty of guaranteeing the life, honor, and well-being of citizens.

When I return I will tell you about this working visit. Thank you and good evening.

FARC ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL PARTY

PA012042 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Without naming candidates, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, today officially announced the establishment of the Patriotic Unity political movement in La Uribe, Meta. In announcing the estalbishment of their political movement 1 year after signing of peace agreements and cease-fire, FARC outlined its platform on popular housing projects, municipal reform, and repeal of the value added tax [IVA].

Peace commissioners held cordial conversations with the FARC high command during the meeting in La Uribe. FARC leaders did not name any candidates for state corporations [corporaciones publicas] or the Presidency of the Republic. Patriotic Unity is the first guerrilla political group officialy presented to the public.

STROESSNER DISCUSSES MENGELE WITH U.S. ABC NEWS

PY030057 Asuncion Red Privada de Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Interview with President Alfredo Stroessner by U.S. ABC News reporters Frank Manitzas, John Martin, and Collin Scott Willie at Government House on 29 March; all questions in English -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Mr President, we are pleased and respectful of the opportunity to speak with you about a subject that I know has caused some discomfort in this country, because we know that you can help us clear up the mystery of the whereabouts of Joseph Mengele. There have been so many reports over the years that he is here, he is there, that he is in various parts of the world. Can you tell us, can you give us some information? Is he here in Paraguay?

[Stroessner] Well, I am very pleased to receive you, and I will gladly answer your questions. It is also very necessary that you get in touch with the people's sectors, government officials, and foreign personalities who are... [Stroessner hesitates] discharging their duties here in Paraguay.

I can tell you that I am in permanent contact with the people, although it is not necessary to point this out. I am trying to meet their needs and their aspirations for progress, and particularly their aspirations for peace.

Now, getting to your question. Both in the United States and in Paraguay there have been questions about Mengele since 1967. All the information on the case has already been released. I cannot tell you anything new. The president of the Supreme Court and other government officials have spoken about it on several occasions. According to information I have at hand, Mengele came to Paraguay around 1962 with legal documents issued by the German Embassy in his own name. And then, in search of these charges... [rephrases] We do not know where he is. That's all I can say. On several occasions... [Stroessner hesitates] there have been comments even about this lady who came from the United States not long ago... [rephrases] the same thing, eh? [Stroessner unsuccessfully tries to correctly pronounce the name Karsfeld three times] ...Well.

Now, according to information released by the U.S. Embassy, she will run for a New York Senate seat, and she was reportedly more interested in promoting her candidacy than in looking into the issue that she was here to investigate.

[Reporter] So, if I understand you correctly, Mr President, Dr Mengele is not here. Do you have any information when he was here last?

[Stroessner, interrupting interpreter] No, I do not know that. This is what I can tell you. We have given all the necessary explanations. I personally had no information nor was I aware of the issue.

[Reporter] Did you ever meet him when he was here?

[Stroessner] No, absolutely not, not at all, absolutely not.

[Reporter] Do your records show when he left here, what year, what day, or is there anything you think could help us understand about that?

[Stroessner] First of all, the courts have taken care of the issue. You can imagine that I have so many obligations and duties to discharge and issues to deal with in my capacity as president... [rephrases] The police and the courts must undoubtedly deal with such issues. I have the impression... [rephrases] such repeated questions give the impression that something is being concealed, but it is not so. It appears that something is being concealed, something about which there is an intention of keeping silent. There is nothing of the sort.

[Reporter] We know you want to tell the truth and that is why we have come, so that we may hear the truth. We appreciate the cooperation you have [words indistinct] in meeting with the judiciary and the president of the Supreme Court. It is clear that you wish...

[Stroessner, interrupting] I always say that... [Stroessner hesitates] it is always good to tell the truth no matter how bitter it may be, and that a lie is always bad no matter how elegant it may be. I am not a friend of deception.

[Reporter] Mr President, why do you suppose there have been so many reports over the years, so many news reports about the presence of Mengele?

[Stroessner] Now, look. There are, and we are sure of... [rephrases] We may draw our own conclusions. There may be people who want to know his whereabouts and therefore they go to the press, and there you have the results. We always read sensational reports and we are attracted by unusual news.

[Reporter] We want to inform our readers [as heard] again that what you have told us is extremely useful, the thing that you have suggested, that is, speaking with the Justice Department and the courts. Is there anyone else here in Paraguay who could help us prove that he is no longer here, perhaps some of his friends from... [question overlapped by interpreter]

[Stroessner] I believe those are the regular channels to go through to inquire about this issue, which has been in the news for years, because it is a repeated, and repeated, and continuously repeated issue. We have to put an end to it, or whatever, and consider that all questions have been properly answered.

[Reporter] That's exactly what we hope to help the people in our country understand. In the investigation in search for Dr Mengele that has begun now in the United States and in the FRG again, do you expect to give full cooperation, full collaboration with those [words indistinct]?

[Stroessner] We have always had that attitude. We are always and [words indistinct]. No, but we do not know more than what we already said.

[Reporter] I have only one final question. If you should by chance discover that Dr Mengele has returned to Paraguay, would you have him arrested and extradited to the FRG?

[Stroessner, overlapping interpreter] And you should then... [rephrases] you should give us advice. We cannot deal with hypotheses. No... [Stroessner stutters] Action will be taken in keeping with the circumstances. If... [Stroessner hesitates]

[Reporter] And if the situation was that he has returned, you would have him arrested?

[Stroessner, without waiting for interpreter] Just as you ask me what will happen if he comes here, he may also be in the United States, he may be held there. Yes. Look, I am not a clairvoyant.

[Reporter] I understand, and if he were found in the United States, the U.S. Government has said it would arrest him and extradite to the FRG. You would do the same here if he secretly returned here?

[Stroessner] Look, I will speak sincerely. I don't know where he is. We cannot know whether he is here, or in the United States, or in any other country.

[Reporter] But my question is if he was discovered here, if he had returned without your knowledge or without the knowledge of the country, he would be arrested. Is that correct?

[Stroessner] Look, this is a hypothesis. If that ever happens, we will take the corresponding measures, in keeping with the international treaties.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Stroessner] It is not always possible to take action before the actual event takes place.

[Reporter] But you are prepared to take if it happens?

[Stroessner] And what if we suppose that he is dead and that he cannot move, that he cannot return?

[Reporter] Do you think he is dead?

[Stroessner, without waiting for interpreter] Now, everyone knows that he had legal documents. We were not aware of his arrival, not even I myself was aware of it nor how long he was here in Paraguay. Every now and then we repeat the same answers... [corrects himself] we ask the same questions, yes.

[Reporter] I understand...

[Stroessner, interrupting] I am sure that I will be asked about this subject when I visit the FRG.

[Reporter] Do you expect to make a gesture in the FRG, perhsps place flowers as many statesmen do at the graves of victims of Nazism?

[Stroessner] I do not know the details of the agenda. Right now I should undoubtedly be worrying about the problems in Paraguay, and that is precisely what I am doing. I have great responsibilities after so many wars, because Paraguay has waged many wars which have hindered our development and reduced our territory because we have been amputated. I am very busy taking care of the country's needs and of maintaining its position and developing it even more. I have read about all the wars that the world has endured, and I know quite a lot about this subject, about the wars in Europe, Asia, and even in America...

[Reporter, interrupting] And you have never met Dr Mengele in the country?

[Stroessner] I want you to leave convinced that you have not come here to interrogate me in order to get some information about Mengele. I find that very unpleasant, because I have greater concerns. The people have elected me to govern on several occasions so you can imagine that a problem concerning another continent can hardly concern me more than the problems of my country. You give the impression that you have come to interrogate me in order to obtain information. I have already said much too much.

[Reporter] I certainly did not wish to do that. I just wanted our viewers in America to know for all time the exact truth.

[Stroessner] Look, these people such as (Rudel), (?although he is unknown), who went to Argentina, came to Paraguay for commercial reasons, this is not secret. Scorzeny has also been here for commercial reasons. Scorzeny and (Rudel) used to travel to the United States and other places. Scorzeny rescued Benito Mussolini from the Gran Sasso. You must know the story.

[Reporter] He rescued Mussolini?

[Stroessner] Yes, as I was saying, Scorzeny was here. I even met him here. He came for commercial reasons.

[Reporter] Well, we thank you very much for helping us...

[Stroessner, interrupting] Now then, (Rudel) was not in very good health. You must have seen him here on television with a wooden leg. Did you know that?

[Reporter] No I didn't.

[Stroessner] Yes, he wore a wooden leg. You could see him around when he was here. Let us hope that another story about (Rudel) will not be made up.

[Reporter] Do you think that the Mengele question will ever finally go away?

[Stroessner] Look, if they want to continue with that story let them continue, but what information can they obtain from me? I do not want to appear on a television network that includes 240 stations, on ABC News, as though I am standing trial. I am the president of Paraguay, elected by the people, and on 1 April -- since you will still be here -- you can hear my speech in which I will disclose the results of the last elections, although with this I will be stealing quite a bit of your time.

[Reporter] We are happy to give your answers as you gave them directly and forthrightly, and do not wish to accuse you of any (?event).

[Stroessner] We have a U.S. Embassy here with which we have always maintained a good relationship, also with Ambassador Davis and the embassy personnel. We are brother nations.

[Reporter] We understand that and we...

[Stroessner, interrupting] We are exercising a government free of communism. We do not have a deficit because of democracy. Undoubtedly, it is the result of problems that have happened in other parts of the world and if Mengele went to Argentina and came here, the country is not to blame for that. It should be made very clear to all U.S. television viewers that this country is not to blame for that.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Stroessner] Very well, thank you very much. Is there anything else that you would like to know. Let us not just talk about Mengele, because this subject is becoming like a scratched record: It never stops. The trouble is that they have come so often and still do not seem to be satisfied.

[Reporter to interpreter] You may tell him that we are satisfied that he has answered all our questions.

[Stroessner] We all know how all this happened. I could list the events in chronological order. Now then, I do not always only seek to investigate the causes and learn about events that have taken place. What should concern us now is what could happen.

[Reporter] In the future?

[Stroessner] That is right, what could happen in the world, because wars do not always solve our problems, many times they only extend them. It is said that it is the story of something that has already happened and that no one will be able to modify, but the investigations regarding this story continue to be conducted and the story is constantly modified. Some say they are dead, some that they are alive. It is true, the story is being constantly modified, but sometimes one cannot modify what has happened.

[Reporter] That is why we are especially grateful to you for...

[Stroessner, interrupting] In other words, the generations are born, then they die and are replaced by new generations. Sorry, what were you saying? Well, I think we are back to square one again.

[Reporter] Thank you again, I think we have enough.

[Stroessner] Very well.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED IN HUANUCO, SAN MARTIN

PY031630 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1535 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Lima, 3 Apr (EFE) -- The Peruvian Government today extended for 60 days the state of emergency in the provinces of Huanuco and San Martin Departments, in the Peruvian jungle, north of Lima.

The state of emergency will affect the Tocache Province, San Martin Department, and all provinces except Puerto Inca and Pachitea in Hanuco Department. A decree published today in the official gazette EL PERUANO states that persistent subversive actions perpetrated by terrorists in some provinces of Huanuco and San Martin Departments make it necessary to extend the state of emergency in those areas.

There are political-military commands charged with fighting terrorism in each emergency zone, where drug traffickers are also active.

BELAUNDE TO DISCUSS FALKLANDS AFTER LEAVING OFFICE

PY031209 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2256 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (TELAM) -- A report from the REUTER news agency, datelined Lima, Peru, says that Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry has said that when his term in office ends in 4 months, he will reveal the secrets of the Malvinas war. Belaunde made this statement today as Argentina commemorates the third anniversary of the war.

"The Malvinas issue is a problem that will continue to concern Latin America and the world for a long time," Belaunde said at a press conference. He said that the conflict, which ended in a military defeat for Argentina, was solved by force and not by a satifactory solution despite the peace effort mediations conducted by my government at the proper time.

Belaunde added that he had not said everything about the Malvinas war because of the limitations of his position as president, but those limitations will end in 4 months, he said. In reply to a question, he said that "I will not make any statements about the matter now, but I reserve the right to reveal everything I know when I leave the presidency."

Even though the problem has not been solved, Belaunde still believes that the Peruvian proposal for peace at the time was successful, a proposal appealing for American unity and a vision of the future.

STEEL WORKERS ANNOUNCE INDEFINITE GENERAL STRIKE

PY021450 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Owing to the unyielding stand taken by the officials of the Peruvian State Iron and Steel Enterprise [Siderperu], who have refused to discuss salary claims for more than 1 and 1/2 months, 5,000 Siderperu workers will today start an indefinite general, strike. This announcement was made yesterday by Dr Diosnel Munoz Cordova, an adviser to the Siderperu workers, who stated that the trade union of Siderperu workers and the trade union of Siderperu employees made this decision during a meeting between the leaders of the two unions.

Munoz Cordova stated that both Rafael Velazquez Restifo, secretary general of the trade union of Siderperu employees, and (Onor) Pacheco, secretary general of the trade union of Siderperu workers, are asking for the removal of Siderperu Managers Wilfrido Pelaez Ugarte and Victor Rivas Casanova, who are the personnel manager and the industrial relations manager, respectively.

RADIO, TV WORKERS ANNOUNCE 3 APRIL STOPPAGE

PY031503 Lima Televisora Lima in Spanish 0415 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The Peruvian Radio and Television Workers Association [RTP] has announced a 24-hour stoppage for 3 April because the state-owned television station has failed to meet salary claims.

[Begin RTP leader Becerra recording] Therefore, given this situation, we, the RTP delegates, with the approval of a general meeting held 2 days ago, have agreed to stage a 24-hour stoppage on 3 April beginning at 0800. [end recording]

BRIEFS

NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED -- Lima, 19 Mar (AFP) -- During a ceremony held at Government Palace, Nigerian Ambassador to Peru Joseph Fakayode today presented his credentials to President Fernando Belaunde. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0649 GMT 20 Mar 85 PY]

1984 GDP GROWS -- Lima, 2 Mar (AFP) -- The National Statistics Institute, a governmental agency, today officially announced in Lima that Peru's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.7 percent in 1984, which can be regarded as a colossal feat if it is recalled that in 1983 the GDP dropped by slightly less than 10.9 percent. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1840 GMT 2 Mar 85 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER, BRAZIL'S SETUBAL REVIEW DEBT

PY030206 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] According to a report from the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, Urguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias today met twice with his Brazilian counterpart, Foreign Ministe Olavo Setubal. They discussed the future actions to be adopted by the 11 countries that belong to the Cartagena Concensus aimed at reaching an agreement that will establish a political dialogue between the creditor and debtor countries. According to Iglesias, the talks he held in Brasilia were productive and important, and they will serve as the basis for a document that the 11 Latin American countries will present to the IMF and the EEC on 15 April. Iglesias reported that the document will follow the same line and claims put forward by the Cartagena group at the Mar del Plata and Santo Domingo meetings. The 11 countries are mainly protesting the high interest rates, the low prices for raw materials, and the decline in foreign investments, besides demanding that international financial organizations review their policies.

LABOR MINISTER ANNOUNCES MODERNIZATION OF LAWS

PY301659 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0019 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 29 Mar (EFE) -- Uruguayan Labor Minister Hugo Fernandez Faingold announced tonight the modernization of the country's legislation to expedite solutions to labor disputes. The labor minister spoke over a radio and television network to ask the Uruguayan workers for a little patience, because what has been postponed for more than a decade of authoritarianism cannot be solved in a few days.

The government of President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has endured approximately 40 strikes and stoppages, both in the private and public sectors, in the first month of the new Uruguayan democratic process. Today the government managed to abort another half-day general stoppage called by the country's main workers federation, after achieveing a textile workers and employers agreement after 25 days of conflict. After the first success, the labor minister spoke to the nation to express the need for a continuous dialogue between employers and employees. To the workers, the minister asked for democratic maturity; and to the employers, he asked for understanding, after so many years of authoritarianism and the lack of social dialogue. We know it is impossible to decree peace, but it is everyone's task to seek it, the minister stated.

DANIEL LEGNANI PROMOTED TO RANK OF GENERAL

PY031857 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 29 Mar 85 p 2

[Text] During a special secret session held on 28 March, the Senate debated and granted an executive branch request for approval of promotion to the rank of Army general of Colonel Daniel A. Legnani. After the secret session, which lasted only a few minutes, the Senate held a public session and released the result of the vote at the executive branch's request. Therefore, as of now the Uruguayan Army has a new general.

SEPULVEDA ON CONTADORA MEETING, BETANCUR VISIT

FL021723 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0120 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Cancun, Mexico, 1 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Contadora Group has never ceased its Central America peace efforts, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor said today.

At a press conference in this Mexican resort area in the Caribbean, Sepulveda Amor announced that a new Contadora Group meeting at the foreign vice minister's level, will be held on 11 and 12 April in Panama. The Mexican foreign minister briefly spoke to the press after he arrived at the Cancun international airport. He will meet with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado and Colombian President Belisario Betancur today.

He said President Betancur's recent trip to eight Latin American countries supports the peace efforts in the region.

Sepulveda Amor indicated that Betancur's visit to Mexico has been a courtesy call, thus, there is no official program. However, he said all Latin American problems will be discussed at the De la Madrid-Betancur meeting.

DE LA MADRID MEETS COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT

FL021329 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0135 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Cancun, Mexico, 1 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The presidents of Mexico and Colombia, Miguel de la Madrid and Belisario Betancur, respectively, this afternoon agreed on the need to continue the efforts of the Contadora Group to find peace in Central America. They also underscored their concern to combat international drug trafficking and to attain the participation in the struggle of those countries where the drugs are produced as well as those with high drug use.

The two heads of state had an informal meeting this afternoon in this resort area in the Mexican Caribbean, and discussed subjects of bilateral interest in matters regarding economic cooperation, finance, foreign debt, science, and technology. After the meeting, a communique was issued and, afterward, the two heads of state heald a brief press conference where they pointed out the understanding and the prevailing good relations between Mexico and Colombia.

Betancur arrived in Cancun after 1400 hours and left around 1820.

Minister on Pardons for M-19 Members

FL031850 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1740 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Cancun, Mexico, 3 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Colombian Minister of Justice Enrique Parejo Gonzalez has announced here the pardoning of all members of the M-19 guerrilla group so they can participate as a political organization in the upcoming elections.

Before boarding the Colombian Air Force aircraft to go to Washington as a member of the delegation accompanying President Belisario Betancur, Parejo Gonzalez said that there would be no pardon for crimes committed outside of the social struggle. He said yesterday that each M-19 guerrilla's file was being reviewed to study the crimes attributed to each one of them and to see who the pardons should apply to.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS BEING EXPANDED WITH PRC

FL021925 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2136 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 29 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The PRC and Mexico today expanded trade, technology, and coinvestments, which could double this year.

The desire to strengthen and increase economic and trade relations between the two countries was discussed at a meeting between PRC State Council member Gu Mu and Mexican industrialists. The visiting Chinese official said it is important to develop economic forces to destroy the old international economic order and establish a new one, which will be the main factor for world peace.

Last year, trade and industrial exchanges with Mexico amounted to $100 million. With the signing of new agreements it could double this year, a national private sector spokesperson reported.

Presently, as a result of agreements signed between the two countries, a 240-room hotel is under construction by a Mexican company in Xiamen, near Guangzhou. The Mexican participation in the construction of Shangai's metro project is being studied as well as the construction of a Chinese restaurant in Mexico. The State Council member committed the PRC Central Bank to underwrite the National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico (Bancomext) so that it may grant $5.4-million credit to a Mexican enterprise to build the hotel.

It was announced that Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado will visit the PRC next October to further strengthen trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Gu Mu said Latin America has always been considered a partner in foreign economic relations and that there are many possibilities of cooperation between China and Mexico.

12 POLISH NATIONALS REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM

PA031528 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1448 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Apr (EFE) -- Mexican immigration authorities have detained 12 Polish citizens who fled their country and want the Mexican Government to grant them political asylum. An immigration officer reported that the Poles entered illegally through Tijuana from the U.S. city of Los Angeles, in search of work.

Jerzy Wishinski, who acted as spokesman for the group maintained that they are fleeing Poland and do not wish to return there, hence they have requested asylum from President De la Madrid's government. Wishinski said they want to work and send money to their relatives who live in Warsaw and Gdansk.

The immigration officers reported that it will be up to authorities at the Government (Interior) Secretariat to decide the fate of the Poles, who in the interim are being held on charges of violating immigration laws due to their illegal entry into the country.

The detainees did not say why they had fled Poland, nor did they say whether they are active in the underground Soldarity union movement.

ARDITO BARLETTA, COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT MEET

PA011347 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 1 Apr 85 p A 1

[Text] President Belisario Betancur of Colombia met here yesterday with President Nicolas Ardito Barletta, on the second leg of his tour of several Central American countries, to end with his arrival in Washington for an official interview with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

President Betancur arrived Sunday morning at the Omar Torrijos Airport accompanied by a small group. The main theme of his interview with Ardito Barletta was the actual state of peace gestures currently under way by the Contadora Group over the Central American region. Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia and Panama comprise the Contadora Group for pacification of the area, and Betancur's presence here was directed toward the different situations and dispositions of the countries which form the group.

The meeting between the two presidents was held behind closed doors. When it ended, the presidents held a press conference in which Betancur said that the Contadora Group if searching for peace, not manufacturing peace, and that the sole protagonist of peace in the region is Central America itself, because nobody imposes peace.

Betancur further told newsmen that one of the things he will discuss with President Ronald Reagan in the United States will be the actions of the Contadora Group and the pacification of Central America. He reiterated his affection for Panama and spoke of the spirit of unity which exists between the two countries calling it a criteria for action which will help promote the action of the Contadora Group of which Panama is a member.

President Betancur was seen off yesterday -- two hours and 30 minutes later -- from the Omar Torrijos Airport by President Ardito Barletta and Panama's Foreign Minister Dr Fernando Cardoze Fabrega, among other officials who had greeted the Colombian president earlier.

INTERVIEW WITH COCINA LEADER MAURO ZUNIGA

PA290016 Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish Mar 85 pp 14-18

[Interview with Dr Mauro Zuniga, secretary general of the Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Fund and coordinator of the Coordinating Board for National Civilianization, Cocina, by James Aparicio -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Aparicio] Why was Cocina established? Who makes up this group?

[Zuniga] Cocina emerged in response to national government plans to impose new taxes. Panamanians believe that the public administration has shown no inclination or desire to put itself in order. The current situation is the result of 16 years with practically no official oversight, during which money was squandered. Corruption and waste were virtually the cornerstones of administration during these 16 years.

As for the group's membership, it is mostly composed of union and professional organizations that raised their voice in unity to protest to fill a vaccum in local politics and to challenge imprudent measures of the executive branch.

[Aparicio] Since its establishment, what philosophy or ideology has guided Cocina?

[Zuniga] Cocina is an heterogenous movement. Within it, there are individuals of all ideologies within Panamanian society. Some openly defend the capitalist system, others defend the Marxist-Leninist system. We advocate not an ideological stand, but a moral one. The four points outlined by Cocina were the repeal of Law 46 (which was approved without any consultation with the people), the cleaning up of public administration, the recovery of illegally obtained property, and a report on the Defense Forces budget so that it can be drastically reduced. Cocina was formed on the basis of these great and broad demands and moral points.

[Aparicio] Some political sectors in the country have voiced their concern that it seems as if Cocina is just another opposition movement that will reject any government measure. Is this true?

[Zuniga] We have said that we do not care who is ruling the country. What we propose is a change in behavior independently of whatever government is in power. Cocina is not a putschist movement, or at least it was not conceived as such. It is a rectification movement, a movement that demands a rectification of administration independently of who is governing the country.

[Aparicio] Early on, the National Council of Higher Enterprise (CONEP) joined Cocina. However, it withdrew during moments of greater pressure against the government. What did that action mean to you?

[Zuniga] Yes, CONEP was a member of Cocina when it was established. A Cocina letter sent to the national government demanding repeal of Law 46 and outlining the four points already mentioned bore the signature of CONEP leaders. When Cocina began to gain popular support, when everyone started to support Cocina, the leaders of CONEP, who fully approve of the central government, realized that the government's stability was at risk and quickly withdrew their support from Cocina. CONEP voiced its strong support for the national government, which has directly protected all leaders of CONEP.

[Aparicio] Do you think that Cocina's call for public decency, economization in government expenses, and any government tax system can solve the country's economic problems, and at the same time provide remedies for the battered economic situation of the private sector in Panama?

[Zuniga] I do not think that it will be enough; nevertheless, we feel that this could be the first step.

[Aparicio] When you talk about progressive steps to solve the economic problem what would be Cocina's recommendations for this to take place?

[Zuniga] As I said before, we are a moral movement; we are not proposing alternatives. Cocina feels that the political parties, all the political parties, should be heard. It is the political parties that should propose alternatives. What Cocina seeks are the basic conditions for a great national debate in Panama.

[Aparicio] Does this mean that when Cocina proposes a national dialogue, it is also suggesting that there should be a new government; in other words, a new government structure?

[Zuniga] There is evidence that the government headed by Nicolas Ardito Barletta is not even interested in carrying out the first phase of Cocina's proposal, which calls for a purge in the government.

[Aparicio] Given the opportunity, would Cocina be willing to participate in a formula for a new government at this time or 5 years from now?

[Zuniga] We insist that this is not Cocina's mission. Its purpose right now is not to provide alternatives. What we are trying to promote is a national debate. If as time goes by we see no response, then we may decide to become an alternate solution.

[Aparicio] Does this mean that for the moment Cocina will remain as a pressure group?

[Zuniga] Exactly.

[Aparicio] What would happen to Cocina if there should be a purge in the government, if the Defense Forces should reduce their budget, and if the military leaders refrain from interfering in the civilian political life, as requested? Would Cocina disband?

[Zuniga] I do not think that Cocina would disband. Cocina is a movement which has been formed to eradicate all vestiges of corruption in Panama. Corruption is not going to disappear, no matter how hard a government tries. We believe that Cocina should continue to exist for a long time. The current conditions in Panama show us that the correlation of powers or factors is fundamental for our development. The political structure in Panama is based on the interests of the minorities. The Panamanian Armed Forces have not remained in power since 1968 in order to make structural changes. They came to power in response to a new policy dictated by Washington and backed by the country's largest economic powers. For us, there has been a perfectly defined trinomial alliance since 1968; some names may have changed, but the overall policy has not.

[Aparicio] Does your reference to the trinomial alliance made up of Washington, the national economic powers, and the military forces, and your statement about Cocina's stance in relation to the IMF maneuvers imply that Cocina is an anticapitalist, anti-imperialist, and antimilitary movement?

[Zuniga] We believe that as the Panamanians improve their use of modern terminologies, they will improve their opportunities for being heard. Those epithets you have just used are usually linked to the region's leftist sectors. Thus, using those terms would identify Cocina with only one sector of the Panamanian society. Cocina is a movement that is struggling to improve things. We insist on the need to take the first step, which is a moral step. To the degree that true parties, with true responses to the needs of Panamanians today come to life, we will be able to move ahead, with Cocina's help and guidance, on a new course.

BELIZE

ESQUIVEL'S BUDGET PROPOSAL INCREASES PRICES

FL031130 Belize City SUNDAY TIMES in English 24 Mar 85 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] The first budget presented this morning in Belmopan by the UDP [United Democratic Party] administration will amount to a sharp rise in the price of goods, and there will be no wage increase to compensate for this. This is the net effect of the Esquivel proposal to the House of Representatives to raise up the stamp duty at the customs to a high of 10 per cent amounting to a 25 per cent increase from the previous 8 per cent.

There will also be the following increases in taxes:

-- Increase of hotel occupancy tax
-- Increase of departure tax for non residents by $10.00
-- Increase of aircraft landing fees by 30 per cent
-- Increase of the administrative charge for goods shipped to Mexico from 2 to 3 per cent.

In addition Prime Minister Esquivel has sounded the alarm that there will be streamlining of the operations of the statutory boards. This in common language means that electricity rates, water rates, and telephone rates may well go up again; and laying off of workers can be expected.

Tried as he did to paint a gloomy picture inherited from the past administration the prime minister had to admit that during 1984 (under the PUP [People's Unity Party]) despite the world recession, the Belize economy grew by 1.3 per cent in gross domestic product while in many other developing countries there was minus growth or no growth at all. Inflation in 1984 was controlled at 6 percent in line with international rates.

COSTA RICA

MONGE COMMENTS ON COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

PA030133 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] Before Colombian President Belisario Betancur left the country after a 3-hour visit, President Luis Alberto Monge said he was convinced of the Colombian president's absolute and total sincerity in his struggle for peace in Central America. Monge reiterated that Costa Rica's position has been consistent with that struggle and [words indistinct] all the countries involved in the Central American problem would have the same sincerity and maintain the same firm, upright conduct as President Betancur. Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge said he was very pleased by Colombian President Betancur's statements in favor of the verification and control systems that Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador propose for the Contadora Document. The president stressed that Betancur believes that the observations on the first draft of the Contadora Document are positive and constructive, especially with regard to the mechanisms that deal with the commitments that might be established with signing the peace document. The Costa Rican president said that President Betancur's remarks have greatly encouraged him because Nicaragua and some groups have viewed these observations as an attempt to boycott the Contadora peace efforts. Monge also said that there has been an attempt to portray the observations made by Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador as an effort to boycott the signing of the peace document. This has been clearly refuted by President Betancur's remarks. As the Colombian president said, the observations are a positive contribution to the efforts for regional peace, Monge added.

EL SALVADOR

PCN-ARENA COALITION CHALLENGES ELECTION RESULTS

PA040043 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Text] [Monitored in progress] ...And signed by Raul Molina Martinez and Major Roberto D'Auguisson of the National Conciliation Party, PCN, and the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, respectively, yesterday afternoon.

The nullification request was given to YSU this morning by members of the Central Electoral Council, CCE. The basic part of this request reads as follows: The request to nullify the elections is based on the following:

1. The president of the Republic and the ministers of state openly participated in propaganda activities from their government positions in favor of their parties during the electoral campaign.

2. The government participated in the elections with an imposing attitude never experienced before in the country.

3. Authorities pressured voters in the eastern region, particularly in Corinto, San Carlos, Guatajiagua, Yambal, Cacaopera, San Isidro, San Simon, Gualococti, and Lolotiquillo, where the civil registry was ignored, and voting did not follow correct procedures. There were also problems in San Juan Opico, Sacacoyo, La Libertad, San Matias, and Colon, where ballot boxes were found with more than 500 ballots that had not been registered to those areas. According to the law, these ballots should be considered null.

4. There were also irregularities in San Vicente Department.

Considering that these actions contribute to disrupting public order and alter the results of the 31 March elections, we hereby present a request for nullification of the elections, and with all respect we ask that the request be acknowledged and processed according to the law.

This was part of the request to nullify the elections presented yesterday afternoon by the party coalition and which was given to the national and foreign press today. In addition, the party coalition headed by PCN and ARENA, through their leaders Raul Molina Martinez and Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson, strongly rejected the charges of trying to detabilize the democratic process and the government made last night by CCE President Mario Samayoa in a national radio and television broadcast. The coalition leaders said CCE President Samayoa was present at the fairgrounds when we submitted the request for nullification. However, shirking his responsibility he left the fairgrounds and proceeded to record the television program in which he made charges against us. We reject any charges against the Armed Forces other than the ones we made. In addition, a copy of the request for nullification was sent to General Adolfo Blandon, Armed Forces chief of staff.

The coalition strongly and emphatically rejected the statement made by the CCE president, who said a few hours ago that the nullification request accused the Army of permitting fraud and of tilting the elections in favor of the government party.

Meanwhile, Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, mayoral candidate for San Salvador, said today that the coalition's attitude is similar to that of the FMLN-FDR, which also makes unrealistic proposals. They want us to keep 30 deputies, and to give them 1 [as received] of the 33 deputy seats we won in Morazan, La Union, and Usulutan Departments so they will have 30 votes in the Assembly -- the same number we would have. This is blackmail and an unrealistic proposal very similar to the FMLN-FDR's request for a share of power that they have not won through elections, the Christian Democratic Party candidate said. Meanwhile all political organizations, including the CCE, have refused to make statements for the national and foreign press.

PDC Denounces 'Destabilizing Plot'

PA032254 Paris AFP in Spanish 2125 GMT 3 Apr 85

[By Carlos Samayoa]

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Apr (AFP) -- The Salvadoran Christian Democrats today denounced "an ill-fated destabilizing plot prepared" by the righist opposition. Last night the rightist opposition filed for the nullification of Sunday's municipal and legislative elections. There is a climate of uncertainty throughout the country as it awaits a decision by the CCE, which is studying a recourse for nullification and a pronouncement by the Armed Forces on the subject.

The challenge to the elections submitted by the ARENA and the PCN, which according to unofficial reports lost the elections, was described by the government's Christian Democrats as a sign of "weakness by the most conservative country sectors" who are demonstrating "a defeatist attitude."

The attitude of the ARENA-PCN coalition "confirms the results at the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] computer center," the PDC said, and affirmed that the opponents "know they lost," which is the reason for challenging the elections. The ARENA-PCN coalition claims a number of "vices" based on Article 145 of the Electoral Law, which authorizes the disagreeing parties to denounce fraud, coersion, or violence by the civilian or military authorities. The law allows 48 hours after the polls close for submission of challenges, and 24 hours more for receipt of proof if the recourse is accepted. In addition, 3 days are permitted for debates and another 24 hours for the CCE to issue an unappealable ruling. If the CCE declares the elections void, new elections would be called "no later" than 30 days after the date of the ruling. There is fear among the population of a ruling favorable to the ARENA-PCN, because that coalition controls two of the three seats on the CCE Directorate.

General Adolfo Blandon, Armed Forces chief of staff, announced that the Army will make its pronouncement today on the recourse for nullification. Meanwhile, diplomatic and political circles consulted by AFP expressed their "concern" over a situation that could "threaten the nation's institutionality."

The voters enthusiastically participated in Sunday's elections; however, if new elections are called, they may feel deceived, which could produce a strong absenteeism, according the circles consulted. It is also felt that the current crisis will favor the guerrillas, since the FMLN has claimed that Sunday's elections were "a new electoral farce."

Defense Minister Press Conference

PA040145 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 2237 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Press conference by Defense Minister Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova; place not given, questioners not identified -- broadcast in progress; live]

[Text] ...[Vides] First, I cordially greet all of the representatives of the media, both national and foreign, and express appreciation to them for accepting our invitation this afternoon. We will read a communique regarding mention of the Armed Forces in a document that calls for a challenge of Sunday's 31 March elections by the PCN-ARENA coalition. We are not interested in assuming party positions, but seek only to defend the prestige that is costing the Armed Forces so much. To prevent confusion, I will read you the communique and then I will give you an opportunity to ask any questions you deem necessary regarding the topic we are discussing. With us are the members of the high command, the commanders of the six infantry brigades, the directors of the public security corps, and the commanders of the six brigades that are also representing the commanders of the departments and rapid deployment battalions.

The communique states: The Armed Forces, in relation to the demand for nullification submitted to the CCE by the PCN-ARENA coalition opposing Sunday's 31 March elections, wish to express the following to the Salvadoran people:

1. The document referred to, hints a lack of confidence regarding the proper attitude by the Armed Forces in the elections, thus raising in the minds of the citizens doubts that must be dispelled, and casting aside any shadow of doubt on the noble purpose of the Armed Forces to fulfill their constitutional commitment stipulated in Article 212, a commitment which is not to any political group but to the people.

2. Our Constitution clearly states that the Armed Forces will especially safeguard the guarantee of freedom to vote -- a right which has been fully exercised during the last four elections -- of each and every Salvadoran respecting the results and assuring the candidates elected by the people's vote of the full exercise of their functions. Consequently, the Armed Forces has remained within the limits of constitutionality at all times, fulfilling and watching for fulfillment of the Constitution and other existing laws.

3. As of 25 February, the Armed Forces have displayed a special effort and permanent sacrifice to facilitate the total realization of Sunday's elections. This has signified a sustained effort to permit a new popular consultation and a very significant participation by the Salvadoran people. During this period the Armed Forces have sustained the following casualties, including officers, commanders, officer cadets, troops, and civil defense officials: 71 dead, 146 wounded, and 5 missing. The Armed Forces guaranteed the citizens votes in their hometowns in 241 municipalities, which equals 92 percent of all municipalities, and in relocated regions in 20 municipalities, which equivalent to 7.6 percent of all municipalities, in addition to the 92 percent previously mentioned. [sentence as heard]

4. During the past 15 years the Armed Forces have favored and totally supported the Salvadoran people's effort to direct their destiny on the democratic path as an expression of the liberties and rights befitting El Salvador as a nation, and the manifest purpose of the Armed Forces to walk alongside the people and not against them to find that better future to which we all aspire. Our acts are and will always be within the law and for the defense of the homeland's most important goals. Therefore, the Armed Forces will never assume a partial role and abandon its condition as an apolitical organization, obedient, and nondeliberating.

5. We recognize the importance of the role political organizations play in implementing democracy, but they must exert their rights in a responsible way, within the law, so our democratic system is strengthened and the people's sovereign will is respected.

6. Last Sunday, 31 March, the Armed Forces in general and its high command in particular remained attentive to the electoral process, and received no complaints or formal charges against the Armed Forces during the process. Quite the contrary, we received national and international praise from numerous people, and multiple organizations, news media, and governments -- particularly from our own people.

7. The Salvadoran people have again proved to the whole world -- particularly to those who ignore our people's free will and try to impose their own through violence -- that this is a mature and responsible nation, which has chosen for the fourth time democracy as its political system and has rejected any other system that counters its aspirations and liberty.

8. We must all work honestly and sincerely to consolidate democracy, exerting our rights, developing our liberties, acting in a responsible way, and abiding by the people's will, which is asserted through their votes.

9. There prevails a common enemy permanently plotting against our homeland and our people's rights. Thus, we must join efforts, overcome differences, and unite wills to destroy our common enemy: the communist terrorist subversion.

10. We will continue to struggle for our people, supporting the democratic process, and placing all our efforts and lives at the service of each Salvadoran, so that we may become increasingly prosperous, free, and just.

You now have the opportunity to present your questions, and we will try to answer them as thoroughly as we can.

[Question indistinct]

[Vides] Yes, we have been reading about the charges and, to be frank, they do not deserve to be mentioned by an institution that is working to improve its image, that has repeatedly proved it wants to respect the people's will -- a right that had been previously denied -- and that has understood that the institution's survival will depend on its not going against the people's sovereign will. We are clearly aware that this is our role and have assumed it accordingly. The CCE is the only group authorized to present charges against the Armed Forces. However, these are unimportant charges -- for example, that an underage girl possessed a card entitling her to vote and the policemen did not arrest her. Another charge is that an Air Force member fired some shots into the air to intimidate the people so they would not vote. Another charge is that when the CCE president asked the security officials who had taken over the international fairground buildings, they were told to leave the premises and put away their weapons.

Attempts have been made to make the people believe that this order was issued by the president of the Republic, but this was a request made by the CCE president. That is why the Armed Forces went there, to offer the security that had been requested. These are the three charges I can mention. They are not enough to soil the prestige of our institution and the efforts of all the institution's members, who have risked their lives to make sure that the people exerted a right that had been previously denied. We are not going to adopt any measure because we are not judges. However, if there are any other charges, please present the proper evidence because we are sure that we have acted correctly throughout the country, and we are going to respect the people's will -- just like we promised. Any other questions?

[Question indistinct]

[Vides] That is why I said that we are defending the prestige of an institution, and we are doing it every day with our sweat, tears, and efforts. Do you understand? We are not judges who can decide what must be done. We only want to clearly state to the other nations in the world that we do not accept any insinuation that the Armed Forces have not acted correctly. Is that clear? I also told you to always remember that the Constitution of our country states that we are all innocent until proven otherwise. We are not the ones to prove that. All we can do is ask you to prove whether the Armed Forces' actions really deserve these insinuations. We are sure that the answer is no. However, we will take no action. We must see how things go because we know that nothing is certain when it comes to political matters. Therefore, I cannot say what we will do at any given moment.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, do you think this is an honest attitude, or do you interpret this as a foreign attempt to destabilize the country?

[Vides] Yes, yes. Logically, I do not want to discuss political matters, but you are aware that the campaign that has taken place in the country has been characterized by violence and lies against our people. There has been a constant effort to destabilize the electoral process because, in our opinion, the elections could have been taken more seriously than they were. The political parties (?use tricks) here and everywhere else in the world. This is not new. The losing party finds it difficult to accept that it has lost and always tries to challenge the electoral results. The Armed Forces reassert once more that they do not care which party has the most deputies. That is why we did not mention the government or any party in our communique; we only mentioned our people. We have a responsibility to the people, and that is what we strive to protect during our struggle. You must be aware of the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces supporting these last four elections in a climate of violence like that which now prevails in our country. This has taken us increasingly farther away from our military objectives. However, we calmly analyzed the situation and became aware that we will achieve these objectives only if we serve the people and win their support -- instead of letting them down. Perhaps we will achieve these military goals within 1 year, or 2 years, but they must be based on a growing democracy that can be chosen and defended by the people. That is our position. Logically, any problem which arises between political parties destabilizes the country because we are facing a conflictive situation. The politicians have been fighting many years and now the time has come to think about the country. All Salvadorans who truly love the country must set aside their differences. All the democratic forces must resolve their conflicts. And we must truly establish national objectives and goals. Once we establish those goals, all the Salvadorans must exert themselves to achieve them and defeat communism in our country.

I believe that the Armed Forces must also reflect on this, because everyone is having fun, everyone is insulting each other on television, but we are the ones who end up with dead men. While the Armed Forces sacrifice themselves on the battlefield, while we work 2 months to provide security for the elections, we cannot let each party capriciously request that the elections be repeated as if this were a card game. We need a serious democracy in our country because the Armed Forces have assumed a responsible role. We know that the country will be developed this way. No one should strive to divide the efforts exerted by democratic forces in our country because everyone has a lot to lose in this. The Armed Forces are ready, and with the help of all the democratic forces, we will seek that national unity we need to develop our country. Any other questions?

[Question indistinct]

[Vides] Regarding the CCE, it is logically the top authority. It is the only group authorized to decide what is correct or not. In addition, the Armed Forces have clearly established their position, and asked that any contradictory evidence be brought forward because this questions the Armed Forces' apolitical position. The Armed Forces will respect the CCE's decision, whether it rules that the Armed Forces are guilty of any charge or not. Now you see why I convoked this meeting: to clearly state the Armed Forces' position, because all the members of the Armed Forces are sure that we have acted clearly and honestly, and deserve the people's recognition -- not their rejection, as sought by the coalition that made the charges. There is no need to tarnish the Armed Forces' honor over a mere political rift.

[Question indistinct]

[Vides] Yes. The position of the Armed Forces is one of respect for whatever the CCE decides. However, the council should check the challenge documents very carefully. It should study them to determine whether the challenge is important enough to void a whole process. It should analyze whether the situation in the country is suitable for repeating elections whenever a political party has such a whim. The Armed Forces have a military mission to accomplish and I don't want to steal 2 and 1/2 months from it every so often. We have military tasks to fulfill the moment an election is over. I reiterate my position of [words indistinct] that this decision must be backed by something and not by the whim of the persons who make up the CCE.

[Question indistinct]

[Vides] I think that I can answer that once the CCE has made a decision because I don't want to influence the decision of the CCE. I will answer that later.

[Question indistinct]

[Vides] No, I don't think so. [words indistinct] I think they are fighting for victory or trying to get votes from the elections, not trying to exert influence on the Armed Forces. [words indistinct] The representatives of the Armed Forces support what I am telling you as well as the position of the Armed Forces as an institution, not as a group. [sentence as heard] Therefore, anyone who tries to destabilize us will not be successful; I am sure of that. However, thus far we have no information that anyone is trying to destabilize this institution.

[Question indistinct]

[Vides] One of the procedures of the CCE is to determine partial or total nullification. The CCE knows what procedures must be followed. That has nothing to do with the charges against the Armed Forces. I don't think it is fair to imply or say that the Armed Forces have not maintained their proper position because of two or three unimportant incidents. When a member of the Armed Forces or of the CCE commits an arbitrary action during the electoral process, the members of the CCE can denounce him and the CCE president will inform us of the penalty to be imposed on that particular military or civilian official. If a charge has not been presented against the Armed Forces, that is not our problem. We have not received an official charge against any branch of the Armed Forces during the electoral process. I think this answers your question.

[Question] [Words indistinct] is it possible that the Armed Forces will adopt a position in defense of the country's Constitution?

[Vides] You can be sure that if the Constitution is violated, the Armed Forces will come out in defense of the Constitution. This is not just the will of the defense minister. This is an oath taken by all members of the Armed Forces. That is why we are here, why we exist. But as I have said, we don't want to influence anyone's decision. Everyone knows what his responsibilities and obligations are. Let the decisions be made. If they are well-supported decisions, they will be respected by the Armed Forces.

[Question] [Words indistinct] you are saying that you would not be ready to go through another election if such a decision were adopted?

[Vides] What we are saying is that this is not the best time to play with the will of the people as expressed at the polls. The Armed Forces use all of their material and human resources to protect the electoral process before, during, and after the elections. This not only takes the Armed Forces away from their main task of fighting subversion, it takes up valuable resources that the state cannot spare at this moment. What I want to say is that the ruling should be fair. If the ruling is fair and in line with the law, and it becomes necessary to hold new elections, we will go through with them, but this would not be the ideal situation. The country has enough problems as it is. In the future there could be another party that loses an election and then challenges it; then we would have to go through another 2 and 1/2 months of an electoral process. We are calling for careful thought. If there are just causes for nullifying the elections, we will accept that decision because the CCE has the authority to give the final word in this matter. If the ruling is fair, if the ruling is in line with the Constitution and it is necessary to provide guarantees for a new election process, we will provide guarantees for a new election process. What makes us sad is that no one is paying attention to the 72 dead we have suffered. We cannot proceed irresponsibly toward another election in which we will have more dead, more sacrifices, and more [words indistinct]. Although the Armed Forces always aim to do an excellent job, this type of situation inevitably has an influence and lowers the morale of Armed Forces members. However, if we must face the same responsibility again, we will provide security for the new process.

[Question] [Words indistinct] of the opposition will have street demonstrations. Do you think that this is an intelligent reaction at this moment in this country?

[Vides] I believe that any reaction that is not carefully considered and that may incite violence is not a well-thought out reaction.

If they take to the streets, the Armed Forces will have to impose order in the city, and that will be their problem. We are going to do our job. Whoever wants to go to the streets can. If there is disorder at anytime we must intervene.

[Question] [Words indistinct] before the elections, the politicians spoke of love for the fatherland, the people, and justice. How do you interpret this step taken by ARENA and the PCN? Does it represent true love for the peace and justice of the Salvadoran people?

[Vides] Almost all the questions are being phrased in such a way as to obtain a political answer, but this is not the right thing to do. I insist that I do not have to pass judgment on the actions of the political parties and say whether they are well-intended. The CCE will decide whether their claims are true; I cannot. Once the various arguments and evidence are presented and discussed, there will be a decision from the CCE. As you say, we are still in the heated atmosphere of a recently concluded political campaign. We are waiting for careful thinking. When foam goes up you wait a while and the foam goes down. We are waiting for the foam to drop because as we have said, we are engaged in a struggle against subversion. What we need is to eliminate all bitterness so that all the people can search for a common objective that will represent national salvation. Let's have the last question because I have had a busy day today.

[Question indistinct]

[Vides] Yes. I said on a previous occasion that the presence of the Armed Forces member was to represent the Armed Forces high command -- the various branches; infantry, artillery, and so forth. This was done through the presence of the six brigade commanders. The Air Force was represented by General Bustillo; the Navy by Colonel (Villalta) and the security organizations by the three security chiefs. Yesterday, before issuing this communique, I consulted all the commanders. Their opinion was that we had to issue this communique defending the honor and integrity of the Armed Forces because they were being unjustly attacked. When we were attacked for just reasons, we accepted the attacks. I believe there are no more questions. On behalf of the high command and of the garrison commanders here, we thank you for the honor of your presence. Thank you and good night.

PCN Leaders Disavow Challenge

PA040046 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2311 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Communique issued by the PCN on 3 April]

[Text] The signatories, members of the PCN Executive Council, issue the following clarification to the Salvadoran people:

1. We were greatly surprised to learn that Raul Molina Martinez, secretary general of the PCN Executive Council, together with ARENA, has requested the nullification of the elections held on Sunday, 31 March.

2. Without going into an in-depth analysis of the matter under discussion, we want to make clear that our Executive Council, which has 11 members, was not called to participate in making a decision in this respect, as established in our statutes.

Considering the seriousness of the matter, the Executive Council should have been called to participate in making such a decision.

3. In view of the above, the majority of the members of the PCN Executive Council does not recognize the participation of Raul Molina Martinez in the request made before the CCE.

4. We will remain in a permanent session to analyze the results of the past elections, and to keep our rank and file informed.

5. We reiterate our support for the democratic process as the peaceful means to solve our political differences.

San Salvador, 3 April

Toward social justice, for national conciliation. [Signed] Juan Jose Bonilla, secretary of organization and administration; Hugo Roberto Carrillo, secretary of ideology and political studies; Zoila C. Bonilla de Gonzalez, secretary of women's affairs; Mario Antonio Angulo, secretary of professional groups and cooperatives affairs; Luis Angel Lagos, secretary of youth action, culture, and sports; Ciro Cepeda, secretary of legal matters

Duarte Rejects Charges

PA040316 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0215 GMT 4 Apr 85

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte described the charges made by the rightists that the Army assumed a biased position during Sunday's elections as "insolent." In a television program, Duarte said that the recourse requesting nullification of the elections presented by the coalition made up of the ARENA and the PCN is aimed at "creating uncertainty in the country." Duarte said that the right has accused the government and the Armed Forces of conducting a fraud "which is grave, serious, and puts the people in a very difficult situation."

"I will not become involved in such a dirty matter because the right is trying to discredit the country and the Armed Forces and is giving those up in arms -- the terrorists -- sufficient cause to achieve victory." Duarte added that "it is insolent to try to get the Armed Forces involved in a fraud when everyone has witnessed their exemplary conduct." "What is happening today is that the Armed Forces are no longer manipulated to serve the interests of the right as occured in the past," Duarte concluded.

CCE Declares Challenge Null

PA040407 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0310 GMT 4 Apr 85

[Text] We have a last minute report: The challenge presented by the party coalition composed of the PCN and the ARENA has been rejected. We repeat: The challenge presented by the party coalition was declared null tonight by the CCE members. A statement by CCE President Mario Samayoa follows:

[Begin live report] [Unidentified speaker] Dr Samayoa, this is being broadcase to all of El Salvador. What is the CCE's decision?

[Samayoa] The CCE has declared the challenge presented against the electoral results null. This means that the validity of all of the electoral results is confirmed and, due to the Holy Week vacations, the final vote count will begin Monday at 1000 at the international fair installations. This means that the country may enjoy its vacation in a spirit of calm. I issue a call to the people to trust their representatives because they are [words indistinct] for the Salvadoran people. This should be recognized [passage indistinct]. [end report]

DUARTE DENIES STATEMENT ON 'TAMING' ARMED FORCES

PA030408 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 30 Mar 85 p 3

[Text] At a press conference held at the Presidential Palace yesterday afternoon, President Jose Napoleon Duarte denied to a foreign reporter that he has "tamed" the country's Armed Forces. Duarte said that this was a political dirty trick in a translation by Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth with the obvious intention to place him in a conflict with the Armed Forces.

The president said he read the English version of the report and that it contained no word that could be rendered as "tamed." He added: "You know me and that is not my kind of language." In addition, he said, I am a politician with a lot of experience, and I wouldn't be making that kind of statement.

Duarte also denied that there have been random bombings against towns, as reported by Berkley Mayor Eugene Newport and a Green Party deputy from the FRG who visited the country a few weeks ago. Duarte said that their claim is part of a continuing FMLN campaign to discredit the government and attack the Armed Forces. If these gentlemen participate in its campaign, he added, it is because they support the FMLN. The leader explained that the Salvadoran Air Force offers protection to infantry and artillery patrol missions and does not permit attacks on military units at night, attacks that the rebels used to kill soldiers, guardsmen, and civil defense officials.

In addition, Duarte said that he fully supports Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova and Deputy Security Minister Colonel Carlos Reynaldo Lopez Nuila, both of whom Colonel Roberto Santaibanez has accused, in remarks in the United States, of involvement in the murder of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero. Duarte said if Santaibanez has any credible testimony to offer he should come and present it to the courts in this country or do so at a judicial office in the United States. I would request that that sworn testimony be included in the pertinent trial here.

Regarding the electoral process, Duarte was asked his opinion of the CCE. He replied that the CCE is the top electoral organization and that the executive branch is not involved in its actions. "However, I can attest to the fact that these elections are the culmination of a democratic process begun in 1982 with the elections for seats at the Constituent Assembly, followed by the two rounds of presidential elections and this one for deputies and mayors," he concluded.

COPREFA ON ELECTION-DAY CLASH IN SAN FERNANDO

PA030312 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Report issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, members of the 4th Infantry Brigade who were guarding the electoral process in San Fernando, Chalatenango Department, clashed with terrorist FMLN criminals. This armed confrontation lasted until the early evening hours.

Thanks to the effort of the soldiers, the ballot boxes were sent to San Salvador, via Salvadoran Air Force helicopters, for counting. In this way, the Armed Forces fulfilled their duty of guaranteeing the elections for the sake of Salvadorans' peace and tranquillity.

GUILLERMO UNGO SCORES ELECTION FAILURE

PM031531 Rome LA REPUBLICA in Italian 2 Apr 85 p 8

[1 April telephone interview with Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front Chairman Guillermo Ungo by Aldo Sofia]

[Text] "Have you heard about the low turnout for the elections? Does it not prove that we were right? People are disillusioned and have less and less confidence in Duarte's efforts." This is the first comment on the Salvadoran elections from Guillermo Ungo, chairman of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, leader of the Salvadoran moderate opposition, and one of the protagonists of the historic La Palma meeting. He lives in Panama. He talked to us on the telephone as the first results of the general elections were coming in. He emphasized at once the low mobilization of voters in areas controlled by the Army: "The government portrayed the elections as the decisive step toward El Salvador's democratization. But what does the vote show? It shows that people no longer believe Duarte's promises. And it easy to understand why. In 1982 the Salvadorans voted en masse for the Constituent Assembly and last year in the presidential election. They really hoped for change, for a political solution to our national strategy and to 5 years of war. Instead, those elections resolved nothing. The people no longer have any illusions and know that Duarte can never have a solid enough majority to overcome the opposition and the hostility of the most reactionary forces."

[Sofia] So is the situation still deadlocked, in both the military and the political fields?

[Ungo] We repeat that the only solution lies in negotiations. And the real protagonists of the Salvadoran situation must take part in the negotiations -- on the one hand we of the Front, and on the other the Reagan administration, the Army, and the oligarchy.

[Sofia] The president has said he is willing to resume the dialogue with the guerrillas.

[Ungo] But that is not the real problem. the real problem is this: Is Duarte strong enough to be able to negotiate properly, to intiate compromise solutions, to make commitments? This is the nub of the issue. Dialogue for its own sake does not interest us.

[Sofia] But all in all is it not in the guerrillas' interests to set their sights on Duarte?

[Ungo] We have put forward some very modest proposals, such as the "humanization of the war," but Duarte has not even managed to provide concrete answers to this. Of course, we have also put forward our plan for the political solution of the conflict -- the formation of a coalition government, the merging of the two armies, and another general election within a year. Instead an attempt is being made to resolve the conflict without us. It is an illusion.

[Sofia] But are not the splits within the guerrilla forces making themselves felt, too?

[Ungo] It remains entirely to be proven that there are currently conflicts among the opposition forces and within the FMLN.

If anything, the facts prove precisely the opposite. Since last year we have been saying repeatedly and with the utmost clarity and conviction that we want dialogue, that we are in favor of a negotiated solution. We have put forward flexible proposals and even confirmed this in a letter sent to Duarte in February. There are no splits among the guerrillas on this point.

FMLN ISSUES STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS, U.S. ROLE

PA031659 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0200 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] Freedom Plan, a great electoral fraud operation designed by the CIA. How did the U.S. CIA commit fraud against the fraud experts? What was behind the Liberty Plan, promoted by the Armed Forces? What happened to the elections in the zones of conflict?

The latest electoral process in our country turned into a confrontation between two pro-oligarchic factions. On one hand there was the nationalist right wing mainly represented by the ARENA, and on the other, the pro-American right wing represented by the PDC. Both factions have the same objectives, to maintain the unjust economic, political, and social sytem, and to promote popular struggles. Nevertheless, both factions differ in the methods used to achieve these objectives. For the time being, the present U.S. Administration bases its counterrevolutionary plans for El Salvador on the pro-imperialist right wing represented by Napoleon Duarte and the PDC. It was the CIA that placed Napoleon Duarte in the presidency. The U.S. media provided wide coverage of the CIA's financing of Duarte's last electoral campaign. This resulted in an angry reaction from the nationalist right wing.

Ambassador Pickering and other U.S. officials made intense efforts and negotiations to quiet the anger of the nationalist right wing represented by ARENA. The Reagan administration counterinsurgency plan, took into account that the image of Latin America's nationalist right wing needs Napoleon Duarte and the Christian Democracy in order to show the world and especially the U.S. Congress, that a moderate government emerged from the elections, and is supposedly interested in promoting economic and social reforms. For the benefit of this image which is false, the administration guarantees the flow of millions of dollars, weapons, and advisers to the Armed Forces.

To fully play its role, the Christian Democracy needs greater freedom of movement; not restrictions from the nationalist right-wing bloc, which until now has controlled the executive and judicial branches. The U.S. Congress does not favor sending millions of dollars to a country where the judicial branch is in the hands of persons known in the United States as directors of death squads, as corrupt politicians, and enemies of reform. The nationalist right wing had to be shaken up to give way to total control of the branches of state by the pro-imperialist right wing represented by the PDC.

Based on past elections and analyses of them, everything apparently indicated that in the 31 March elections the PDC would not obtain the 31 deputies they needed to be a majority in the Assembly. What could be done then to give the PDC the 31 deputies they needed? Stated in another way, what would the U.S. Government do to commit fraud against those who for 50 years implemented institutional fraud? One thing is certain, the Reagan administration would never leave its strategic plans for El Salvador in the hands of a primitive Central Elections Council [CCE] that could be obstructed by a wornout, uncontrollable, and fraudulent nationalist right wing. The CIA's abilities were tested. It was a matter of committing fraud against the fraud experts, without their finding out. The CIA did it.

The statement we will present now is based upon the conclusions that resulted from an extensive and detailed observation of the electoral process, and on intelligence reports. For the execution of the fraud, the U.S. Government through the CIA, had to rely mainly on the Armed Forces. The Army represents for the United States the only structure that it has almost fully controlled for the past 2 or 3 years. The Salvadoran military knows that it survives thanks to the United States. It knows also that if the United States stops sending aid, it would mean almost immediate death. Because of this, the Army has been forced to assume the position of puppet, and to carry out the U.S. plans although these plans favor a hateful Napoleon Duarte. The fraud in favor of the PDC was the so-called Freedom Plan promoted by the Armed Forces to guarantee the electoral process. The PDC needed six more deputies. In San Salvador and other areas where the PDC has traditionally won, it was not likely that it would win more seats than it already had. Meanwhile, it is very difficult to commite large scale fraud in urban centers because of the strong vigilance carried out by the nationalist right wing. This does not mean that there was no fraud in the urban centers. The deputies that the PDC needed to make up the majority in the Assembly would have to come from votes in areas far from the urban centers, where there was not much vigilance. The fraud, then, would have to be cooked up in the zones of conflict: the executor -- the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, the nationalist right wing would never doubt the Armed Forces. The preparations for the fraud really began some months ago in San Jorge, Chirilagua, San Rafael Oriente, San Agustin, San Francisco Javeir, Santa Elena, Jucuaran Nueva Granada, Estanzuelas, San Dionisio. In Chalatenango there were no elections as such, in at least 20 municipalities. There were no municipal electoral boards, there were no candidates, not even for mayoral positions in many of them.

In many of the municipalities in these zones elections were not even held. In others the people did not vote. In the zones of conflict the Army totally took over the electoral process. Lieutenants and captains made up the electoral junta, while soldiers and noncommissioned officers were the voters. Colonel Mendez and his officers named observers -- in many cases handpicked. This happened in Chirilagua, San Luis de la Reina, Jucuaran, Anamoros, San Gerardo, and so forth.

In these places, only the Army, ourselves, and the inhabitants know what happened. Why doesn't Colonel Mendez explain what happened in those areas so far from bothersome observers? Another important detail is that the Army did not react to the transportation stoppage decreed by the FMLN, as it has on former occasions. This surprised us. It only seemed to indicate that the Army, contrary to what we thought, wanted transportation to be held up. This was confirmed when the government officially announced the transportation stoppage. In this manner the only source of transportation for ballot boxes and other electoral materials were the dedicated Armed Forces. Voting slips, ballot boxes, and electoral documents were for a long time exclusively in the hands of the military.

The Army, through CIA orders, presented to the pro-American right-wing PDC, the six deputies they need for a majority in the Assembly, and perhaps even a few more. Very well: The greatness of the plan consisted in the fact that it did everything we described here without the nationalist right wing being aware of it. How did the CIA achieve this? First of all they convinced the nationalist right wing not to commit fraud. Through the VOA, the official U.S. Government station, articles in U.S. newspapers, and statements by experts and analysts, the CIA stated that the ARENA-PCN coalition would almost certainly win the elections.

It was reported that the Reagan administration would favor an ARENA-PCN victory, and the nationalist right wing would believe it. In this (?governing) of the victim, the CIA and U.S. Government are experts. It is enough to recall the Reagan administration's announcement that U.S. troops would not invade Grenada, and that the fleet in the Caribbean was only heading for the Middle East. On the following day the Marines invaded Grenada. When the freedom Plan and the decentralization of pressures were announced, the PDC premeditatedly pretended to oppose them. Meanwhile, the nationalist right wing fully supported the plan. In this manner the nationalist right wing swallowed up the poison so politely served by the CIA.

The Armed Forces do not really believe in parties or politicians. The Armed Forces know that ARENA, PCN, and the PDC will not give them weapons and millions. The military knows that it lives because of the Americans. The Armed Forces know that they have to obey the Americans, even if this means daily humiliation. This time the order was to commit fraud in favor of the PDC, and they did it. If the order had been to favor the nationalist right-wing ARENA, the Armed Forces would have done the same.

We have presented this statement to point out and reiterate our position regarding the electoral process. We feel that the elections will not serve to solve the people's urgent needs or the country's urgent problems. Regardless of whether the executive, judicial, or legislative branches are controlled by the nationalist right wing or the pro-imperialist right wing, which is to say ARENA or PDC, this will not in any way stop the advancement of the revolutionary movement. These past elections only served to confirm that the people do not believe in those farces. Proof of this was absenteeism. The people are seeking other solutions. The past elections also confirm that in El Salvador, there will never be a solution without the FMLN.

GUERRILLA RADIO STATION CRITICIZES ELECTIONS

PA032226 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Despite the numerous claims made by those responsible for yesterday's elections to the effect that the event proceeded as normal and that there had been a large vote turnout, despite the coutless and desperate efforts by the government to sell the image of a well-organized, smooth, and correct process, the most significant thing demonstrated by these elections was the general crisis of the regime. Yesterday's elections were characterized by an absence of order, acts of vandalism on the part of the rival parties, confusion, and blatantly fraudulent actions. At one point during the elections, Duarte delivered a message in which he virtually implored the Salvadorans to go to the polls, regardless of who they voted for.

Taking advantage of the confusion, the voters preferred to return to their homes and not vote, despite the risk that this implies in our country. Yesterday's chaos is the same old chaos that characterizes the fraudulent regimes in our country. In this sense the elections showed nothing new. Elections such as those that were held yesterday lend themselves well to deceit and we all know that the imperialist interests will determine the results. Yesterday's elections reflected such confusion and disorder, that the regime was disturbed because there were observers there, who came with all expenses paid.

The disorganization of the electoral comedy permitted the people to exercise abstentionism. The press agencies had reported days earlier the feeling of apathy that prevailed among the Salvadorans regarding the elections.

Once again, in light of what the dictatorship's elections demonstrated, the disorganization, and the confusing maneuvers to conceal the fraud, the path of political solution is emerging and gaining ground. Far beyond its inability to hold formally acceptable elections, the regime has demonstrated its deep deterioration and inability to resolve the critical situation of the country.

The general crisis has progressed and the regime, which resorted to elections that changed nothing and sought the formal consolidation of the unjust system that we experience, has its days numbered.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ON DEPUTIES' VISIT TO BELIZE

PA302302 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] Government spokesman Ramon Zelada Carrillo said yesterday that, as citizens, the deputies of the National Constituent Assembly can travel to Belize without compromising national sovereignty.

He was commenting on the interest expressed by several deputies who want to visit the territory under dispute to discuss this old problem with the new Belizean authorities.

Zelada Carrillo recalled that the deputies are also citizens and that even as dignitaries they can go wherever they want without any limitations.

HONDURAS

COURT ISSUES ARREST WARRANTS FOR JUSTICES

PA032250 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2215 GMT 3 Apr 85

["Last-minute report" by Walter Padilla Herrera]

[Excerpts] We are with Jorge Alberto Diaz Castillo at the First Criminal Court, where an arrest warrant [auto de prison] was issued a few moments ago against attorney Ramon Valladares Soto, president of the Supreme Court. We have Jorge Alberto Diaz Castillo with more information, more details on the warrant issued against attorney Ramon Valladares Soto.

[Begin report] Listeners of Radio America, the First Criminal Court has issued warrant for the arrest of attorney Ramon Valladares Soto for the crime of treason and attacking the government system. At this moment the defendant's attorney, Edgard Caceres Castellano, is making a statement to the media which we will be airing in a few moments. [end report]

Attorney Ramon Valladares Soto was sworn in with eight other justices as president of the Supreme Court the same day of his arrest. According to those responsible persons in the tribunal where he has been charged his crime was to have permitted himself to be sworn in illegally by the National Congress in a restructuring of the Supreme Court, whose president is attorney Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo.

The court also ordered the arrest [captura] of eight other justices, four permanent and four alternates, according to the court log where this case is being tried.

LABOR, MANAGEMENT, ARMY MEET OVER CONFLICT

PA031909 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1719 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Report by Francisco Medina Argenal of Radio America, from the Armed Forces General Headquarters in Tegucigalpa on 3 April -- recorded]

[Text] After 2 and 1/2 hours, the meeting scheduled for 0830 today between General Walter Lopez Reyes, chief of the Armed Forces, and the representatives of the Special Labor-Management Commission has ended. Present at the meeting were Andres Victor Artiles, general secretary of the Honduran Workers Confederation, CTH, Joaquin Luna Mejia, secretary of the Honduran Private Enterprise Council, COHEP, and Felicito Avila Ordonez, general secretary of the General Workers Confederation.

At the end of the meeting, as you will hear exclusively on Radio America, the labor and management leaders were very brief when asked about the discussions with the chief of the Armed Forces. They did not go into detail, said the dialogue was very fruitful, and said they were headed for some place to analyze the topics discussed with the chief of the Armed Forces. This indicates that in the next few hours we could have new reports on the possibility of an understanding between the representatives of the two branches of state presently in conflict. Let us listen to the statements made by the labor and management leaders made exclusively to Radio America, here at the Armed Forces headquarters.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] The talks were simply a communcation [word indistinct].

[Medina] The Armed Forces has agreed to form a commission similar to one you have?

[Second unidentified speaker] No, we did not discuss that.

[Medina] Why not? [no answer heard]

[Medina] We ask Felicito Avila, how the meeting went.

[Avila] Very well. We spoke of a number of little things that we consider to be of national interest.

[Medina] What little things are you referring to?

[Avila] Well, our concerns, on this occasion the special commission was present [words indistinct] collaborators.

[Medina] Is there any possibility that the Armed Forces will form a commission with the same objectives as yours?

[Avila] We will have to yield to the constitutionally formed Armed Froces, they are subordinate to the Constitution and [words indistinct] in the scope provided them by law.

[Medina] Regarding President Suazo's invitation to talk with you expressed through the Presidency Ministry, have you accepted?

[Avila] We have no definite information. We are going to meet to discuss it now, and we hope that we will be able to state our intentions and views.

[Medina] Did you simply inform or make concrete requests of the chief of the Armed Forces?

[Avila] We informed him only, because this is what we wanted to do. We have not made any special requests.

[Medina] How did the chief of the Armed Forces respond to your report.

[Avila] He seemed interested in the information that we provided him, and the efforts that are being made to find a solution to this problem. I repeat we gave him the information just as we received it. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Jaoquin Manuel Mejia, COHEP Secretary, said the following to Radio America:

[Begin recording] [Mejia] The gist of [words indistinct] this was all.

[Unidentified questioner] What did you discuss regarding your desire to form a special commission to mediate in the conflict between the branches of state?

[Mejia] We did not discuss that. [end recording]

These were the brief statements made by labor and management leaders after their meeting at the Armed Forces general headquarters. We repeat, the information is very brief, and we surmise that in the next few hours there will be some information regarding the role that the chief of the Armed Forces may play. The leaders have been very brief and have refused to go into any detail. By the way they rushed out of the Armed Forces headquarters, and their statements that they will meet in the next few hours to analyze the situation, we think that the chief of the Armed Forces has made concrete proposals that could result in a conciliation in this conflict between the two branches of state.

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PA011735 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0340 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Press conference held by Colombian President Belisario Betancur and Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica at the residence of Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova in La Paz -- live]

[Text][Moderator] The microphones of HRN, La Voz de Honduras, are now at the disposal of your excellency the Honduran Foreign Secretary Dr Edgardo Paz Barnica.

[Paz Barnica] Gentlemen, thank you. First of all, I would like to thank you for your interest in covering this historic event for Honduras and President Suazo Cordova. We are being visited by a distinguished dignitary: Colombian President Belisario Betancur.

He met and exchanged views with President Suazo Cordova on topics of common interest, and on the Central American crisis. I would like to say that Honduras is satisfied and honored that a man, a humanist, a man of intelligence, a leader is visiting us on a peace mission. I am very pleased to introduce Colombian President Belisario Betancur.

[Betancur] I must first thank Honduran President Suazo Cordova and Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, who is my old and admired friend, for the hospitality shown us. They, as well as the Honduran people, have been very attentive and kind. I would like to clear up before the international public rumors that have been spread internationally that the internal situation in this country is dramatic. As soon as we arrived, we verified and noted that there is absolute calm. It is general knowledge that a situation has arisen between the Supreme Court of Justice and Congress. This situation has taken place within the constitutional system. We have not verified any break in the normal development of activities in Honduras. We have analyzed the Central American situation with President Suazo Cordova, the foreign secretary, and the defense secretary. We are happy that the Contadora meeting at the level of deputy foreign ministers and technical advisers will be held as planned the second week of April. It will be held to begin analyzing the observations and (?revisions) that were made in Tegucigalpa. I think many of them, or 99 percent of them are absolutely acceptable and can be incorporated into the initial proposals of the Contadora Document. Therefore, I think we are moving on an extremely realistic path of convictions and not improvisions. I will be happy to answer any questions.

[Moderator] I will ask the journalists who wish to ask questions to raise their hands. Jose Domingo Flores of HRN.

[Flores] Among the things that you have said regarding your Central American visit, you said that this is a grace period. How can the Honduran interpret this statement which you made in Costa Rica?

[Netancur] I wanted to make some reference to the beginning of Holy Week to explain in somewhat liturgical words that the new phase that the Contadora Group is beginning seems to be undergoing a state of grace. With the removal of some of the essential obstacles and overcoming of the sadness or numbness over the Contadora process, there is a kind of ecstasy or state of grace over the results of the talks that will begin in Panama the second week of April. I think that they will be held under the best auspices since the obstacles that caused that sadness have been overcome.

[Moderator] Gustavo Ribi will now ask a question.

[Ribi] I understand that you are going to Washington. Are you going to help so Nicaragua and the other Central American countries can achieve true peace and so the specter of war will no longer hover over these countries, and does Nicaragua really want peace?

[Betancur] This afternoon I spoke at length in Managua with President Ortega and Foreign Minister D'Escoto. We spoke specifically about the disturbing factors that existed (?in the past) and the views on the positions established in Tegucigalpa: I think we are on a very realistic path. At the same time I do not think this realistic path will come up against the difficulties that had seemed insurmountable and unsurpassable. That is the common denominator that I have observed in the countries that I have visited in Central America. I have not yet completed my tour. So far I have visited Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras. Tomorrow I will visit El Salvador in the morning and then I will go to Guatemala. In the afternoon I will go to Cancun, Mexico, to meet with President De la Madrid. Believe me when I say that we are on a very realistic, constructive, and creative path. I think we are on the eve of great agreements and decisions.

I am not saying that all the details of those agreements will be abandoned once they have been concluded becasuse peace must be a concern everyday. Like a flower it must be watered everyday. One has to talk to flowers. You know that there are methods to cultivate flowers. In Colombia, we are quite advanced in this field. We export several hundred million dollars of flowers. [Words indistinct] and then there are methods and technologies. In some cases, one talks to the flowers. The peace process must be constantly watered like a flower. One must take care of it. It is a daily [word indistinct]. It is a daily task.

[Moderator] Milton Mateo of HRN.

[Mateo] We Hondurans would like to share your optimism about the future and the achievements of the Contadora Group so far. However, we think that there are obstacles that prevent the achievement of the Contadora Group's objectives. Your country is an active member of Contadora. What do you think is the real obstacle that prevents the Contadora Group from achieving its objective?

[Betancur] At this point there are no insurmountable obstacles. They have been removed. They were removed due to a great extent to the will of the Central American countries. There are difficulties, but they are not insurmountable. They can be overcome. We will need willingness at all times to continue to overcome the small obstacles that might persist or that arise in the future, because as I said a moment ago, peace must be a constant concern. In such an interrelated world, it would be senseless to believe that no new conflicts will arise. They will arise. That is why some of the proposals that had initially been denounced and that had seemed to be the cause of conflict, have now become a positive factor. An example of this is the verification commissions.

In the internal peace process in Colombia and in the agreements that have been signed with the guerrillas, those verification commissions play an essential role. Whenever conflicts arise in the implementation of the agreements -- this is also valid for the Central American situation -- the verification commissions immediately go to the sites of the conflict to see the nature of the conflict. Sociologists say that when a social analyst faces a problem and he is able to identify that problem, that problem is already half solved. If after identifying the problem he is able to find the reasons and motives, three-fourths of the problem is solved. This is why verification comissions are very important. One of the topics brought up in Tegucigalpa was precisely that of verfication commissions, in other words, those who in each case will go to the zone of conflict to look into the reasons and motives for the conflict and find solutions. Now there are no insurmountable obstacles in the Central American peace process. I repeat and I acknowledge that there are difficulties [words indistinct] those difficulties. I reminded jouranlists in San Jose, Costa Rica, that the great European politician [name indistinct] liked to go fishing in locations where there were few fish, where it was difficult to fish since he liked difficulties. Well, there is a fascination here about everyday difficulties. It prompts one to look for solutions. This reply might seem somewhat [word indistinct] but we are talking about conflicts that have not even arisen. [Words indistinct] we already have instruments to deal with them. Some instruments emerged in Tegucigalpa. They are the verification commissions that some had seen as factors of conflict, but on the contrary, I believe they are factors to solve conflicts. Any more questions?

[Moderatos] Regina Osorio of "Today" television newscast.

[Osorio] As the president of a Contadora-member country, do you think you can convince the governments of the United States and the socialist countries...[rephrases] well, the United States has said it supports the Contadora Group but in any case it is trying to obtain economic aid for the counterrevolutionaries and Cuba and the Soviet Union continue to send armaments to Nicaragua. What position will you adopt to prevent this problem that could create a confrontation in the area?

[Betancur] That is a very good question, Regina. It is said that the answers are the ones that are dangerous. We maintain that the Central American conflict is not an East-West confrontation. Instead, it is a conflict of the region itself that emerges from the [words indistinct] and the historic moment. I have maintained an old view in some of my books. It is that in all situations of (?subversive) conflict there are subjective or personal variables and objective or impersonal factors. The subjective or personal variables [words indistinct] the agents of subversion, whether the 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrillas in Colombia or the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC. By the way, the latter yesterday institutionalized themselves as a political party in Colombia. In other words, they are moving on the institutional path to gain their aspirations through institutions rather than through the armed path. Now then, [words indistinct] subjective factors. In Colombia we have given them some replies. For example, we have issued an amnesty and we have presented a (?pardon) bill to the legislature. When we [words indistinct] corrective measures or replies we are in a direct dialogue [words indistinct]. There are also objective or impersonal factors. (?You referred) to those objective and impersonal factors. For the first factors we mention the culture medium. They are the lack of a social infrastructure: schools, waterworks, sewers, hospitals, jobs, and the high interest rates of the Latin American foreign debt. All of these are the objective factors of the subversive processes in Central America and other Latin American countries. Therefore, if one only deals with the subjective factors, in other words, the guerrillas, and one ignores the objective factors, then one will be incorrect because as long as there is that culture medium, the discontent or social [word indistinct], others will take up the rifles left by those who die or who abandon the guerrilla activity. That is why we have strongly insisted on looking for support for that social infrastructure, for example in the EEC and by strengthening the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, as a very useful and appropriate mechanism for financing operations for the infrastructure problems that exist in Central America. That is the reply to the subjective and objective factors of the revolutionary processes. We are (?attacking) them [words indistinct]. Any other questions?

[Moderator] Julio Armando Valdes of HRN.

[Valdes] In remarks to the press, Eden Pastora said that if internal peace is not sought in Nicaragua, the Contadora Group is doing nothing and is just wasting its time. What is your view of Eden Pastora's statement?

[Betancur] Please excuse me if I do not comment on remarks whose exact dimensions and terms I am not aware. However, even though I will not refer to them, I will deal with the content of your question [words indistinct] what occurs internally in each country. We believe that the implementation of the Contadora process is done on the basis of the principles of inter-American [word indistinct] law some of which establish noninterference and self-determination. We do not want to intervene internally unless the respective countries request it. For example, it is public knowledge that I had the honor of intervening [words indistinct] in the internal electoral process in Nicaragua last year. Why did I do so? Because the Nicaraguan Government and the Democratic Coordinating Board requested this.

(?We have) always been concerned about what occurs internally in countries. The FMLN guerrillas and the Salvadoran Government have met several times in the Presidential Palace in Bogota. The Salvadoran guerrillas have even met with representatives of the U.S. Government whenever both parties have asked us. We get involved in the internal processes of the countries whenever they request it. This week the second meeting of Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] and the Sandinist government was held in the Presidential Palace in Bogota. Therefore, we are always concerned about the internal problems of the countries, and we only get involved whenever they make the request. If this were not so, we would be violating the principle of non-intervention and self-determination. Therefore, we are concerned about the internal processes because we know that they affect the overall situation.

[Moderator] Bearing in mind President Betancur's long trip still ahead, we will just have time for two more questions. Marlen de Zelaya has a question.

[Zelaya] Does your tour of the countries of the region and other Latin American countries have any specific objective with regard to the Contadora negotiations?

[Betancur] I am on my way to the United States but since I like Central America so much, I am making some technical stopovers. That might be an evasive answer. The concrete answer is that my tour has to do with the Contadora process. As I said before, the [words indistinct] making difficult the reactivation of the Contadora process. For example, there was the case of asylum seeker Urbina. There has been an awakening in the Central American countries and they have asked us to reactivate the process and that is what we are doing. The next Contadora Group meeting will be on 11 April at the level of deputy foreign ministers and technical advisers. As I said, it is a meeting to begin analyzing adjustments still needed for the draft of the Contadora Document. However, I repeat, from now on [words indistinct] the process. I know you would like to ask me how long the Contadora Group will exist. Remember that the reason for the Contadora Group was to fill a vacuum or because at that time the United Nations did not believe it was an opportune time to act or because it had difficulties in doing so or very well because in the [words indistinct] the OAS did not find it appropriate to do so. There is a common [words indistinct] establishes that in politics no vacuums will last forever. When vacuums emerge something will fill them up [words indinstict] in the Contadora process. How long will the Contadora Group last? As long as the Central American conflict exists. I think I am expressing the views of President De la Madrid, President Lusinchi and President Ardito Barletta when I say that the Contadora Group's existence [words indistinct] until there is no longer a conflict. At that moment we will disappear because we are not a multilateral organization that has been established to last forever. Instead, [words indistinct] the conflict. Thank you very much.

[Moderator] There is one last question from Wilfredo Garcia of the newspaper EL HERALDO.

[Garcia] Two questions on the verification mechanisms of the Contadora Document and on the life of this mediating process. Regarding the first point on the mechanisms of verification and control that will be discussed in the 11 April meeting, up to what point do the regulations for the control and vigilance commission that was approved in the last technical meeting held in Tegucigalpa fulfill the requirements needed to give life to the Contadora process?

Regarding this same process [words indistinct], the U.S. State Department has maintained that if the Contadora Group fails, the OAS might be a good substitute for it. The Contadora Group's death possible [words indistinct] and the OAS might continue?

[Betancur] We would be very (?happy) if the OAS resumes its job. It would mean that the vacuum that I previously mentioned would have disappeared and that there is no reason for the Contadora Group's existence. We are just temporary and we admit this. We are happy to recognize this because there are multilateral bodies of a permanent nature, among them the OAS. Therefore, we are not in the Contadora Group just to be actors or to be on television. We are filling the vacuum. If the vacuum disappears, we disappear. Regarding your other question about the verification mechanisms, I believe there are several in the Tegucigalpa observations. I do not want to commit my colleagues because in the Contadora meeting in the second half of April they will analyze those mechanisms, proposals, observations, and analyses. I think they are very constructive.

[Unidentified reporter] Your opinion about Honduras and the (?Honduran president)?

[Betancur] For some time I have admired President Suazo Cordova. He has given clear testimony of loyalty to the philosophical principles of government based on repect for the dignity of people and respect for public freedoms. Like myself, he came to office through the free popular election of his countrymen. That is part of the essence of democracy. That is the case for myself as well as for President De la Madrid and the Venezuelan and Panamanian presidents. Therefore, in the Contadora Group we share the same popular origin of being freely elected just as President Suazo was. Therefore, since we all emerged from the popular will, we feel great solidarity since President Suazo has that same popular origin. Let me make use of the fact that I am holding the microphone to state that Foreign Secretary Paz Barinica has clearly shown his ability and credibility as Honduran foreign secretary [words indistinct] as foreign secretary in Europe and other parts of the world. He has helped in the search for peace in the entire world. I feel very well [words indistinct]. The fact that President Suazo has honored me by inviting me to his hometown and his home has made me very happy. I have really felt at home. I am not just saying this. It come from my heart. Thank you very much.

NICARAGUAN TRUCKS, SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN COLON

Nicaraguans Claim Mistake

PA021617 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1553 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Telephone report by Juan Ramon Aguilera Zeta, from Choluteca -- live]

[Text] Military officers seized seven Soviet-made trucks at the Fraternidad de San Marcos customs post, Colon Department, early this morning. The trucks were driven by Sandinists dressed in civilian clothes who were interrogated and said that they had gotten lost and had entered Honduran territory by mistake. The vehicles were searched and assault weapons were found in them. The trucks were taken to (Exalamar), Valle Department where they are being kept while investigations are under way. We want to report that the Honduran Army is keeping a permanent watch on the border and since this watch was initiated Russian, Cuban, Czechoslovak, and Argentine spies have not been able to enter Honduran territory. There were 18 Sandinists dresssed in civilian clothes and the Soviet-made vehicles were full of small assault weapons.

Special Security Measures Taken

PA022331 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2215 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 2 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist soldiers who were captured today by the Honduran Army entered Honduran territory by mistake, a military source confirmed.

Early today Honduran Army personnel intercepted a convoy of seven military vehicles at the La Fraternidad border post commanded by officers of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] who were dressed like peasants, the same source reported. The 18 members of the group, who were riding in 6 GDR-made "IFA" trucks and a four wheel drive vehicle, explained that they had instructions to transport a group of people inside Nicaragua territory.

Meanwhile, the joint command of the Honduran and U.S. forces that are conducting antitank maneuvers approximately 30 km south of La Fraternidad, have adopted special security measures in reaction to the incident. The joint maneuvers command has closed access roads to the Army installations and banned civilian aircraft from flying over the area, it was learned in Choluteca. The area near Choluteca and the entire route to the site known as Las Hormigas, where the exercises are taking place only 5 km from Nicaragua, is covered with signs in English and military instructions.

Until early this afternoon, there was no official information on the capture of the group of Nicaraguan soldiers. Both the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate and the 11th Battalion Command at Salamar were awaiting "higher orders" before they released details on the incident. Correspondents from various media who insisted on obtaining further details on the developments met with indifference from the military. An official at the Honduran Foreign Secretariat stated that in spite of the lack of official information on the capture of the Sandinists, Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica is aware of the situation. "If this were really an accidental trespassing into our territory, we will accept due apologies. However, before that can be done a full investigation must be conducted," the source stated.

The area of El Espino has frequently been the scene of harassment by EPS artillery due to its proximity to the positions of counterrevolutionaries who are fighting to overthrow the Managua regime.

Armed Forces Issue Bulletin

PA031437 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Bulletin issued by the Public Relations Directorate of the Honduran Armed Forces; date and place not given]

[Text] The Public Relations Directorate of the Honduran Armed Forces hereby reports that at 0200 on 2 April, a convoy comprised of 7 Soviet-made military vehicles under the command of 2d Lieutenant Porfirio Rivera Zepeda and 17 soldiers of the EPS of Nicaragua equipped with Soveit antomatic AK-47 rifles and duly uniformed entered Honduran territory through the border area of the El Espino customs post in the jurisdiction of San Marcos de Colon, Choluteca Department. They were captured by members of the Honduran Army and later transferred to a military unit in the interior of the country.

The aforementioned again demonstrates the flagrant violation of the sovereignty and integrity of the national territory by the EPS. It also shows the permanent vigilance that the Honduran Armed Forces carry out along our borders to prevent armed groups from entering the national territory.

NICARAGUA

COMMUNIQUE TO HONDURAS ON 2 APRIL BORDER INCIDENT

PA030117 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Foreign Ministry communique to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica issued in Managua on 2 April]

[Text] Your Excellency Edgardo Paz Barnica, foreign secretary Republic of Honduras.

Your Excellency: I am honored to address Your Excellency and report the following events: Today, 2 April between 0200 and 0300, seven [word indistinct] trucks of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] that were traveling to the city of Somoto crossed the border between our two countries at the El Espino border post due to an unintentional mistake. The truck drivers were not familiar with the zone and according to the available information, the vehicles and their occupants are in the hands of Honduran authorities. I give Your Excellency the trucks' license plate numbers as follows, except one which has no license plate: 6-004, 6-006, 6-008, 6-009, 6-010, and 6-011. In addition, I report to Your Excellency that the trucks described were carrying 3 second lieutenants and 14 soldiers of the EPS. Their names are as follows: Enrique Flores, Mario Garcia, Alvaro Romero, Ricardo Chamorro, Danillo Ceballos, Ignacio Vega, Silvia Roliga, Omar Sanchez, Carlos Serrano, Ignacio Ojeda, Daniel Gutierrez. Lucas Castro, Marcos Sandino, Ariel Baltodano, Candido Martinez, Francisco Galeano, and Felix Munguia. The Nicaraguan Government deplores such incidents, which are completely devoid of any deliberate attempt to enter Honduran territory and are actually the result of an unintentional error. In addition, my government asks Your Excellency to instruct the competent authorities in order to achieve the prompt return of these vehicles and the repatriation of their occupants. Hoping that we will receive a positive solution to our request, which would undoubtedly benefit the cordial relations that must prevail between our two states. I avail myself of the opportunity to reiterate the assurance of my consideration and esteem.

[Signed] Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, foreign minister

ORTEGA MEETS WITH NONALIGNED DELEGATION

PA021725 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of Nicaragua, last night met with a delegation of the Coordination Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement that will be returning to New York today after a visit to Nicaragua. The representatives of eight countries of the Nonaligned Movement visited several Nicaraguan regions. Yesterday, they visited Matagalpa, one of the departments most affected by U.S. aggression through the counterrevolutionary mercenaries. Among other revolutionary personalities, the nonaligned representatives met with Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, military authorities, and Nicaraguan political sectors.

CUBAN, SOVIET COMMISSION SIGN PROTOCOL

FL031416 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] The measures guaranteeing the top line operation of the Punta Gorda nickel plant have been reviewed in Moscow. The analysis was made by the group in charge of this matter in the intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Cuba and the Soviet Union. This commission also reviewed other important tasks to be fulfilled this year and on a long-term basis. It also made decisions regarding the operation of the Pedro Soto Alba plant in Moa. The discussions about the nickel plant by the Cuban-Soviet intergovernmental commission ended with the signing of a protocol.

FIRST NUCLEAR-ELECTRIC PLANT DESIGNS FINISHED

FL031650 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1418 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] (Kirov) factory draftsmen in the Ukraine, USSR, have finished the blueprints of the first nuclear-electric plant in Cuba, which is being built in the southern locality of Juraguay, Cienfuegos Province.

The units, each with a 200,000 kw capability, have a new type of turbines, and are the result of the practical experience and latest USSR scientific and technical expertise.

(Victor Ugolikov), chief engineer at (Kirov), said that in the units for Cuba, the useful charge [carga util] had been considerably increased and that the latest materials and most resistant materials have been used in building the units. He said that with the new design, the weight had been decreased by 16 tons, which decreases the price of production and facilitates transporting and mounting them.

JULIAN RIZO MEETS CSSR'S SOJAK, DELEGATION

FL021426 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Julian Rizo, party Secretariat member, has met with Zbynek Sojak, director of the economic department of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee, and his accompanying delegation. The CSSR delegation is visiting Cuba as part of the exchange plan between the two parties. During their stay in Cuba, the visitors toured different installations in Sancti Spiritus and Camaguey Provinces which were built with the cooperation of the CSSR.

VIETNAM'S NGUYEN HUU THO VISITS HOUSING PROJECT

FL022242 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, today visited the Alamar housing plan. Rigoberto Villamontes, director of the Alamar housing plan, welcomed the Vietnamese delegation and showed them the different buildings under construction, such as the movie theater, the house of culture, and apartment buildings. Faure Chomon, Central Committee member and Cuban ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and deputy Luis Mendez Morejon, chief of the department of attention to commissions of the National Assembly of the People's Government, accompanied the delegation.

Receives Distinguished Guest Badge

FL031824 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] At this time, Comrade Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the National Assembly is touring the capital's historic area. This morning, Huu Tho received in a formal ceremony the keys to the city of Havana and the distinguished guest gold badge. An important moment of today's activities of the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation was its meeting with Havana's government representatives.

DPRK SIGNS PUBLIC HEALTH COOPERATION PROTOCOL

FL022354 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] The Ministries of Public Health of Cuba and the DPRK have signed a cooperation protocol for the year 1985-86. The document was signed in the capital of the DPRK by the vice ministers of public health of the two countries, Juan Kouri and Ch'oe Won-sok.

VEIGA ATTENDS LABOR MEETING IN GUANTANAMO

FL231538 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Secretary General of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions Roberto Veiga has described as extraordinary the efforts the people of Guantanamo Province are making in order to salute the 26 July anniversary's main event which will be held in this province. Veiga, who is also an alternate Politburo member, made statements to the press in Guantanamo after concluding a meeting with the executive body of the labor movement in this province.

VEIGA PRESENTS INTERNATIONALIST AWARD TO WORKERS

FL231350 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The Internationalist Vanguard for Socialist Emulation honorary award was presented, during a formal ceremony at the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] headquarters, to 23 workers from Havana and City of Havana Provinces who are representing the other provinces. Representatives from the USSR, the GDR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Vietnam, and Mongolia embassies presented the workers with the awards, which in these countries is bestowed on those who carry out outstanding socialist work. Roberto Veiga, alternate Politburo member and CTC secretary general, also presented the 16 national labor unions and the 10 provinces which completed the 1984 historic dstes emulation competition saluting the 26th year of revolution, the flags accrediting them to this high honor.

CDR LEADER INAUGURATES GIRON VICTORY EVENT

FL021816 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1155 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Sancti Spiritus will be an impregnable trench line before any type of aggression, Armando Acosta Cordero, alternate Politburo member and coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, has said on inaugurating in that province the Victory of Giron Ideological Competition which will be held nationwide until 19 April.

CARICOM COUNCIL MEETING SET FOR 11, 12 APR

FL031630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1459 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 3, CANA -- The first meeting for 1985 of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Council of Ministers, which was twice postponed, will now be held here on April 11 and 12, the (Caricom) Secretariat said here today. The meeting had been originally fixed for January 28 but was postponed at the request of Trinidad and Tobago. It was then set for March 13 and 14, but was again put back following the death of Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams.

Key topics to be discussed at the meeting will be the state of intra-regional trade, a thorny issue among common market nations, as well as the report of the investigative commission on the garment industry, the release said. Council will also review progress in the common protective arrangements for free and unrestricted marketing of a wide range of regional agricultural products, developments in the regional coconut industry and the operation of marketing and protective arrangements for edible oil and soaps, the release said. Another major issue will be the treatment of shortfalls in sugar production in the light of Trinidad and Tobago's inability to meet its sugar quota to the European Community by 25,000 tonnes.

Officials from Caricom member countries will meet on April 10 to prepare for the ministerial talks. The council is the second highest decision-making organ in the country.

BAHAMAS

PARLIAMENT SUPPORTS ILLEGAL DRUGS INQUIRY

FL021849 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] The Parliament of the Bahamas has voted its support for the illegal drugs, but the Parliament postponed action on a no confidence motion against Prime Minister Lynden Pindling.

The parliamentary action ended debate on the findings of a 3-member commission of inquiry which had issued a report implicating several members of Mr Pindling's Progressive Liberal Party government charging they took bribes and offered protection that allowed cocaine smugglers to reach the U.S. market.

During the 13-month-old investigation, five members of Mr Pindling's cabinet quit or were forced to resign. During its probe, the commission also questioned Mr Pindling's personal finances and said his expenditures far exceeded his income.

BARBADOS

ST JOHN ON TRADE WITH TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

FL021803 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 28 Mar 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Bernard St John has said that even if trade barriers with Trinidad and Tobago were removed local exporters would still be faced with a reduced retail market estimated at between 20 per cent to 40 per cent less than in 1983. He told exporters at the annual conference yesterday it would therefore be unwise for them to expect a resumption of the pre-1983 export growth rates to the twin island Republic quite apart from the danger of once again growing overly dependent on a single small market.

"What I am at pains to point out is that Barbadian manufacturers have no alternative but to look to new extra-regional markets for future export growth," Mr St John said.

Mr St John said initiatives between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago to normalise relations were continuing and the government here looked forward to the early conclusion of a renewed bilateral agreement. "I must warn, however, that the economies of both countries are such that we may not be able to accede in full to each other's every request," he said.

JAMAICA

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS 1984 VISIBLE TRADE FIGURES

FL251745 Bridgetown CANA in English 1744 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 22, CANA -- Jamaica improved its visible trade position by over 25 per cent in 1984, but the deficit was still over U.S. 442 million dollars, figures published by the Central Bank show. According to the bank's just released statistical digest last year's deficit on visible trade was U.S. 442.9 million dollars, a 152.4 million dollars or 25.6 per cent improvement over the previous year. The visible trade deficit in 1983 was 595.3 million dollars. Imports in 1984 cost over 1.1 billion dollars while the country earned just over 738.7 million dollars from its exports.

Jamaica's visible trade gap has been widening since the mid-1970's, and has grown dramatically since 1980 when it was 213.6 million dollars, reaching over 614 million-dollars in 1982, after which the Edward Seaga government has been attempting to rein it in. Between 1981, when the bill shot up to over 1.4 billion dollars as the Edward Seaga government opened up the economy, and 1984, imports have fallen by nearly 20 per cent, or 292 million dollars, the government statistics indicate. But at the saem same time, faced with declines in the bauxite-alumina sector, sluggish performance in other sectors and worsening terms of trade for several traditional commodities, export earnings dwindled by over 24 per cent -- 236 million dollars. In fact the situation was worse in 1983 when Jamaica earned only 685.7 million dollars from its exports.

Last year's improvement -- by 53 million dollars -- analysts here say was due to marginal increase in the bauxite sector and increase in exports under the provisions provided by Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative.

GOVERNMENT TIGHTENS CREDIT, INTEREST INCREASES

FL021852 Bridgetown CANA in English 1905 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 1, CANA -- Interest rates in Jamaica went up four per cent today as government's latest moves to tighten credit began to take effect. The bank rate at which the Central Bank lends to commercial banks rose from 17 to 21 per cent. The prime rate -- the rate commercial banks charge their most favoured customers -- has gone to 23 per cent. The new rates were related to last week's order by the government to commercial banks to increase their liquid assets ratio from 44 to 48 per cent and their cash reserves ratio from 14 to 15 per cent. Banks were also told to hold credit to within the level outstanding at March 8.

The government is hoping that credit tight businesses and individuals will have less funds to enter the twice weekly Central Bank foreign exchange auction and take pressure off the Jamaica dollar. The Seaga government has been maintaining a tight credit policy for over a year now, initially as an IMF measure to curtail domestic credit expansion and to hold in the balance of payments. The Central Bank has now linked the rate at which it charges commercial banks to the treasury bill rates. Treasury bill rates recently moved from an average rate of discount of 17.1 per cent to 20.7 per cent.

TEXT OF COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DOCUMENT

FL300236 Bridgetown CANA in English 1345 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 29, CANA -- Following is the text of a six-page document, prepared by staff members of the Guyana Council of Churches (GCC), which has sparked a big row between the church and state here. The paper, entitled The Role of the Churches in the Search for a Solution to the National Crisis puts the blame squarely on the leftist policies of the Burnham government for the country's economic and social ills.

The government, which has launched a propaganda blitz aimed at discrediting top GCC officials, says the paper calls for the overthrow of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC). The document states:

The purpose of circulating this paper is to stimulate discussion among Christians in order to prepare a plan of action for the Guyana Council of Churches. On Tuesday, 12th March 1985, the council will hold its annual general meeting at which a programme of action will be formulated for at least the following twelve months. It is a working paper prepared by the council staff and does not reflect official council views and opinions.

Between the circulation of the paper and the AGM [expansion unknown] a series of meetings will be held in the regions to discuss the paper and to stimulate interest among Christians to attend both the AGM and the one-day consultation which will precede it. The objective of the consultation is to formulate proposals which will be placed before the AGM the following day.

This paper has three sections. The first section identifies the origins of the social and economic crisis and the political consequences. The second section is devoted to discussing the church's social justice responsibilities, and a third section examines the possible roles of the church in Guyana at the present.

Section One: The Origins of the Present Crisis

Shortly after the elections of 1968, the present government moved to implement the doctrine and philosophy of cooperative socialism.

This official philosophy stands on four pillars:
1. State control of the economy through nationalisation of key sectors.
2. Orientation of production to provide for basic needs of the Guyanese people, especially in the areas of food, clothing, and housing.
3. Formation of an economy with three sectors of which the cooperative sector was to predominate.
4. Introduction of the doctrine of the paramountcy of the party.

With respect to the first base or pillar of cooperative socialism, there is evidence in abundance that nationalisation, on a wide-scale, brought about a collapse of the productive sector and a decline in living standards to their current critical level. Manifestations of the crisis need only be indicated here as they are familiar to all who have spent time in Guyana in recent years. Per capita income was less in 1984 than in 1970. Shortages range from foodstuffs and drugs to raw materials, spare parts, and equipment. Inflation rose to unprecedented heights. Unemployment is estimated at half the workforce and there has been a virtual collapse of the private sector, manufacturing, and commerce. Large-scale agriculture is in its most serious crisis this century. Public utilities (water, electricity, public transportation, postal services, telecommunications, and sanitation) have deteriorated to the point of being a major drawback to both production and decent living.

On the question of meeting basic needs, the cooperative socialism has also failed. However, the effects of the collapse are not equally felt by all sectors of the population since a powerful minority, which has accumulated considerable wealth during this period, has been able to insulate itself against the worst breakdowns in social services. These services (health, education, housing and social welfare) have all deteriorated.

The third pillar of cooperative socialism, the formation of a cooperative sector, never materialised. Instead, under the control of the state sector, the form of cooperative was used by those close to the centres of power to mount straightforward capitalist enterprises to accumulate economic wealth, which was increasingly shifted abroad as the crisis worsened.

The doctrine of the paramountcy of the party is the policy which rationalises the exclusion from power of all but the ruling party. Implementing the doctrine has required the maintenance of a large security apparatus and a preoccupation with security at all levels of the society. Other controls such as nationalisation of the media and the administrative control of jobs and education are effective ways of stifling dissent. Thus, in its essentials, the doctrine of paramountcy can be reduced to the organisation of political power in such a way as to exclusively promote the interest of those in power.

What we are faced with is a situation in which only two of the foundations of cooperative socialism have ever been attempted, namely the creation of a state sector and the implementation of the paramountcy doctrine. The first gave the ruling group control of economic power and the second monopoly of political power. This system has generated a severe economic crisis which in turn has given rise to a political crisis of equally severe dimensions.

It is important to identify a little more closely the stages through which the erosion of human rights has passed in order to arrive at the present position. Repression began as a means of ensuring the austerities introduced because of the economic decline, did not provoke political protest. The right to work was regularly violated by dismissals of workers critical of the state; the right to strike was undermined by introducing scab labour and most recently in the labour amendment by virtually declaring all strikes to be illegal. An extension of this policy of reducing the power of organised labour to oppose austerities was finally to take the bargaining power away from the individual unions and vest it in the TUC [Trade Union Council] which was empowered to negotiate on their behalf with state employers. A further stage of repression was the restructuring of the Constitution by the referendum held in 1978 and the introduction of the new Constitution in 1980. These changes gave the force of law to the ruling party's determination to remain in power since fraud alone has been inadequate to achieve this. The 1980 Constitution placed such extensive powers in the hands of the executive president and his appointees as to (make) their removal virtually impossible without their consent. It is clear from this brief exposition of the main political and economic events since 1970 that the crisis witnessed in every walk of life is rooted in the political authority not being answerable to the society for the past 20 years. Economic collapse, and the disappearance of democracy are the fruits of a minority control of political power. It is this process of exclusion of the majority from any political participation in the society which is the most serious constraint on political, social, and economic life.

Section Two: The Social Mission of the Church

In our times as emphasised in many authoritative statements of the World Council of Churches, the Vatican and, closer to home, of the Caribbean Conference of Churches, the task of evangelisation in our days will be accomplished primarily through the relationship of the church to the poor and oppressed.

The measure of witness to the Gospel is identification with the poor of this world. The spread of the kingdom is achieved through service and solidarity with the victims of oppression and abuse of power.

In the modern era, the level of technological and economic development achieved in the world was insufficient to guarantee the full development of all human persons. In these circumstances, the church interpreted its mission as providing relief for those who were socially and economically excluded. Thus, hospitals for the poor, schools for those denied education, care of the homeless, orphans, etc. were the methods of carrying out the responsibilities of the church. Charity was seen as the means of cushioning injustice.

In our own times, it has become clear that the benefits of progress continue to accumulate in the hands of the already privileged, despite the fact that technological and scientific advances are available to provide a basic decent life for all human persons. In these circumstances, the church has recognised that it must go beyond advising what forms of development are acceptable and actively identify itself with the victims of oppression and exclusion. Thus, it is on the basis of justice not charity that the churches make their demand for a more equitable distribution of the goods of this world.

As we have seen, the distribution of goods is determined by a distribution of political power, thus making the struggle for participation in the goods of this world a struggle to influence political decisions. The search for social justice may be expressed in terms of power and who constitutes the poor. The poor are those who, because they cannot influence the course of political events, are excluded also from the social and economic benefits the society has to offer. It is this section of the community with which the church is called to identify.

The current shorthand expression for this stance of the church is the option for the poor. It constitutes the fundamental orientation through which all Christians are called to work for the salvation of the world and thereby attain their personal salvation. In order to more clearly understand the church's relationship to the social situation in which it functions, it is important to reflect on the nature of this option for the poor.

What are we being asked to choose between? Does the option imply the exclusion of others who may not be poor? Which in turn raises the question of what we mean by poor? This choice is an option to identify with the excluded to assert their right to participate in the goods of this world and to life in abundance. The struggle of the poor cannot be left in the hands of the minority whose lifestyle has fostered poverty and exclusion. Such a choice would be illogical. The choice we are being asked to make -- to refer back to an earlier question -- is between the poor and the powerful; a choice characterised in action by service and solidarity with the poor. Social injustice is life restricting and therefore unacceptable to Christians.

Poverty in our times is not a state of life. It is a process of death, of living less. The process of denying life is expressed in the denial of basic necessities and in the injustice which creates this situation through corruption, fraud, and violence.

An option of the poor in this context is the identification of the churches with those who are excluded from an abundant life in their struggles to bring down the mighty from their thrones, to fill the hungry with good things and to send the rich away empty handed. Since the option for the poor is a choice which all Christians are called upon to make its adoption, (it) should have both a personal and communal effect. Unlike previous decades, this commitment cannot be exercised vicariously by encouraging the work of others by donation or advice. We have to devise ways which ensure that our Christian community do not operate on similar principles as the national society, in other words, that decision-making is the preserve of a few and the majority excluded. Our communities should be models for the larger society in the way we respect each others dignity. The demand, for example, for democratic practices at the national level should be the fruits of having experienced their values in our own communities. As a result of having had their opinion heard and taken into consideration, of having seen majority decisions respected, Christians will have a stronger conviction and moral authority for seeking to ensure that the excluded are incorporated back into the national society.

Section Three: The Response of the Church to the National Crisis

If we apply the thrust of this reflection to the problems discussed in the first section of this paper, it becomes clear that the major contribution the churches can make to the solution of the national crisis is to promote participation in as many areas of decision-making as possible. Overcoming the policies of exclusion is the single most important problem our society faces.

Historically the churches in Guyana have a mixed record. Too frequently we have been used by the powerful to support their political ends because we were more open to influence from that quarter than from the poor. During the past 20 years, many churches have found themselves being used for political purposes, in some cases without their being aware until too late. This is an ever-present problem which must be faced constructively. The answer to the danger of the church being instrumentalized for political purposes is to articulate clearly its stand on social justice and the reasons for it. The church should not be defensive about involvement in issues which have a political dimension. It has a right and duty to make Christian teaching on social matters known despite attacks from those quarters which find themselves criticized. We do not need to demonstrate expert credentials to undertake this task. We need only be prepared to deal with its as whatever level it arises within our competence. This suggests that our own Christian institutions should be the starting point for developing a sensitivity for the views of all and for democratic practices, thus strengthening our experience and ability to promote them elsewhere. How should we initiate this process of participation?

In order to ensure that our denunciation and constructive work of promoting participation is well founded, Christians must take whatever measures are available to inform themselves of the facts of a situation. In our communities there are problems of food shortages, education, police brutality, and other manifestations of exclusion from power and it is at this level that we are primarily called to carry out our option for the poor. One of the aspects of our local communities which we tend to overlook is that they are genuine microcosms of the larger society in that they contain teachers, businessmen, farmers, medical workers, public servants, hire-car drivers, traders, etc. In short, we have the full range of experience necessary to establish the facts of problems and develop an understanding of the form a solution might take. The first exclusion to overcome, therefore, is that of information. We need to inform ourselves in order to effectively witness to our option for the poor.

In the task of identifying the poor and excluded, we need to be specially sensitive to the young in our communities. They, as a group, have started life at a greater disadvantage than any previous generation. Nutritionally, they are deprived, their education has been sacrificed to political interests, and militarization is being substituted for traditional values. If Christianity is to mean anything to them, it must be expressed in terms which touch on their world; a world in which they are manipulated and exploited. The only hope these young people have of expressing themselves and influencing the world in which they live lies in our communities. We have to ensure that both the role they have to play and the respect their views receive are positive and a sound basis for dealing wth the pressures to which they are subjected.

While our primary focus must be to sensitize our denominational communities on important issues and devising ways to mobilize them, we must make greater effort to act ecumenically on social issues. Any activity related to social justice can more effectively be mounted ecumenically, than denominationally. Out of this habit and practice of seeking solutions at the local level and creating opportunities for an experience of democracy at this level, the groundwork will be effectively laid for demanding that such practices be observed at the national level. We must start doing justice individually and communally if we are to achieve it nationally. Jesus did not say that others should feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and so on. He said the basis of each man's salvation was that he or she identify with the poor and oppressed in their struggle to obtain life. (end of text)